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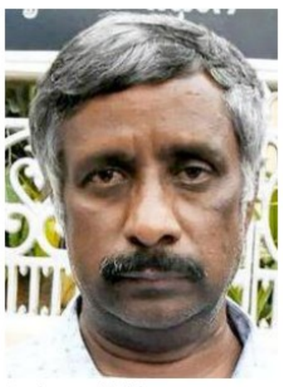
Activist Snehamayi Krishna booked, questioning on

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU



Snehamayi Krishna

Mysuru-based anti-corruption activist Snehamayi Krishna, the complainant in the MUDA case against Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and his family members, was questioned for almost all day by the Bengaluru police on Friday for allegedly using forged documents and audio to make false allegations.

While his son claimed Central Crime Branch sleuths picked him up from Mysuru and were holding him at an undisclosed location, the city police claimed Mr. Krishna was served a notice and he was voluntarily cooperating with the investigation. When last checked while going to print on Friday night, he was still being questioned, but not arrested yet. BJP leaders condemned the police action terming it "political vengeance". The FIR was registered on February 18.

Mr. Krishna has been booked based on a complaint by former Mysore Urban Development Authority commissioner D.B. Natesh, who alleged that Mr. Krishna used forged documents and an audio clip to make false allegations against him on social media.

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U.S. Supreme Court halts Trump's sweeping tariffs

The 6-3 ruling nullifies 'reciprocal' tariffs Trump imposed on countries, including India, under an emergency powers law; the court says only Congress has power to impose taxes, including tariffs

Associated Press
WASHINGTON

The U.S. Supreme Court struck down President Donald Trump's far-reaching global tariffs on Friday, handing him a significant loss on an issue crucial to his economic agenda.

The 6-3 decision centres on tariffs imposed under an emergency powers law, including the sweeping "reciprocal" tariffs he levied on nearly every other country, such as India.

It's the first major piece of Mr. Trump's broad agenda to come squarely before the nation's highest court, which he helped shape with the appointments of three conservative jurists in his first term.

The majority found that the Constitution "very clearly" gives Congress the power to impose taxes, which include tariffs. "The Framers did not vest any part of the taxing power in the Executive Branch," Chief Justice John Roberts wrote.

The Treasury had collected more than $133 billion from the import taxes the President has imposed under the emergency powers law as of December, federal data shows.

The tariff decision doesn't stop Mr. Trump from imposing duties under other laws. While those have more limitations on the speed and severity of Mr. Trump's actions, top administration officials have said they expect to keep the tariff framework in place under other authorities.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 16

Court rebuff
On Friday, the U.S. Supreme Court invalidated President Donald Trump's global tariffs under a 1977 emergency powers law
April 2025: Trump imposes 'reciprocal' tariffs on most countries to address trade deficits and emergencies
2025-2026: Lawsuits filed by states and businesses challenge the tariffs' legality
Dec. 2025: Treasury reports $133 billion collected from the import taxes; companies like Costco seek refunds
Feb. 20: Court rules 6-3; it says only Congress has the constitutional power to impose tariffs

Trump orders temporary 10% global tariff

WASHINGTON
Donald Trump said he would impose a 10% global tariff for 150 days, under Section 122 of the Trade Act of 1974, to replace some duties struck down by the court. He said the new duties would be over and above the existing tariffs. He also said nothing changes on trade deal with India. REUTERS

SC steps in; judicial officers will now join SIR process in Bengal

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

Voters checking their names in West Bengal's draft electoral rolls, in Balurghat. FILE PHOTO

The Supreme Court on Friday took an "extraordinary" decision to involve the judiciary in the ongoing special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in West Bengal, saying the persistent "trust deficit" between the Mamata Banerjee government and the Election Commission (EC) has led to a "stalemate", with time running out.

A three-judge Bench headed by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant requested the Chief Justice of Calcutta High Court to deploy a force of serving and retired judicial officers of West Bengal to take over the quasi-judicial task of Electoral Registration Officers/ Assistant Electoral Registration Officers. They would hear lakhs of voters who had been dropped from the draft roll and had received hearing notices after the EC found them "unmapped" or detected "logical discrepancies" in their personal details.

Now, with hardly a week to go for the claims/objections phase to end on February 28, the court found the State government and the EC exchanging recriminations over the quality and rank of personnel the State had deputed to the EC for the SIR exercise.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 16

Art on stone

Architectural marvel: Hulikere Kalyani (*Pushkarini*) - A remarkable example of ritual water architecture from the 12th century Hoysala period. The stepwell marvel is built below ground level with stone steps on all four sides. It features 12 shrines with shikharas and 14 without, symbolically linked to the zodiac and 27 nakshatras. K. MURALI KUMAR

Amicus curiae's concern over holding IPL matches at cricket stadium without enforcing SOP

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka on Friday sought a response from the State government on the suggestion made by *amicus curiae* that certain measures indicated in the draft Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for crowd management could be incorporated in the proposed the Karnataka Crowd Control (Managing Crowd at Events and place of Gathering) Act, 2025.

Senior Advocate S. Susheela, who is acting as *amicus curiae* in the PIL petition *suo motu* initiated by the court on the issue of stampede that occurred outside the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium on June 4, 2025, has told the court that the measures, proposed in the draft SOP submitted before the court, are much better than the provisions made in the proposed Bill.

Difficult without SOP

Also, Ms. Susheel said that crowd management could be difficult during the matches of the Royal Challengers Bengaluru to be played at the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium in the upcoming IPL-2026 tournament, in the absence of an SOP for crowd management.

The State government had revised its earlier draft SOP by incorporating certain suggestions given by her and other parties to the petition and has submitted a revised draft SOP as per earlier directions issued by the court, she pointed out to a Division Bench, comprising Chief Justice Vibhu Bakhru and Justice C.M. Poonacha.

As the Advocate-General was not available today, the Bench adjourned further hearing on the petition to February 23 asking the government to respond to the submissions made by the *amicus curiae*.

The State government, in response to court's earlier queries about measures to be taken to prevent stampede-like incidents in future, had proposed the SOP for crowd management.

NEARBY

'Bengaluru's air quality reasonably good'

BENGALURU
Calling Bengaluru "green" and that it was the one thing that stood out to him the most, Prime Minister of the Netherlands Dick Schoof said he was struck by the city's tree cover and "air quality" during his visit on Friday. Mr. Schoof said that he had gone for a morning run, and the air quality surprised him, noting that when compared with the Netherlands, it was "roughly the same". » PAGE 6

PROPERTYPLUS » PAGE 11

School dropout rate in Karnataka drops at primary level, but spikes at high school

Jayanth R.
BENGALURU

The dropout rate of students in schools in Karnataka has been increasing year on year in the last five years. While it has improved at the lower primary level, down to 0% now, it has increased at the high school level. Overall, the school dropout rate, which was 19.63% in 2020-21, has increased to 20.4% by 2024-25. Data tabled by the Union Education Ministry in the Rajya Sabha, in response to a question raised by Thoothukudi MP K. Kanimozhi, shows that compared to lower primary and upper primary schools, the number of dropouts is higher at the high school level.

Compared to other categories, the dropout rate of Scheduled Caste (SC) and Scheduled Tribe (ST) students is the highest. Currently, 46,174 government schools and about 20,000 private schools are functioning across the State.

In 2020-21, the dropout rate at the lower primary level was 1.1%, at upper primary level 1.97%, and at high school level 16.56%.

But by 2024-25, the dropout rate at lower primary level had come down to 0%, while at the upper primary level it was 2.1%, and at the high school increased to 18.3%. The dropout rate in high school, which was 16.56% in 2020-21, increased sharply to 22.1% by 2023-24 and stood at 18.3% by 2024-25.

Dropout rate from 2020-21 to 2024-25

Year	Lower Primary	Upper Primary	Secondary (High School)
2020-21	1.1	1.97	16.56
2021-22	0	1.08	14.65
2022-23	0	0	14.9
2023-24	1.7	2.7	22.1
2024-25	0	2.1	18.3

SC/ST students

The dropout rate of SC/ST students in schools in the State is particularly high.

In 2024-25, it was 0.6% at the lower primary level, 3% at the upper primary level, and 31.9% at the high school level. This places Karnataka at fifth place among the States with the highest dropout rate of SC students after Meghalaya, Mizoram, Arunachal Pradesh, and West Bengal.

Karnataka is in the third place in the country in the dropout rate of ST students, with 0.1% in lower primary, 2.8% in upper primary, and 24.1% at high school level.

Developmental Educationist Niranjanaradhya.V.P., said, "Among the students who are dropping out of school, the number of children from government schools has increased. In private schools, the attendance of children is constantly monitored through parents' meetings and other mechanisms. But there is no such system in government schools.

"In addition, there are about 60,000 teacher posts vacant in government schools in the State, and there are many single-teacher schools.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 2

Stones thrown at Shivaji Jayanti procession, meat shops in Bagalkot

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

Tension prevailed in Bagalkot new town after two rounds of stone pelting on Thursday night and Friday morning. Security has been upped in the city and the situation is under control.

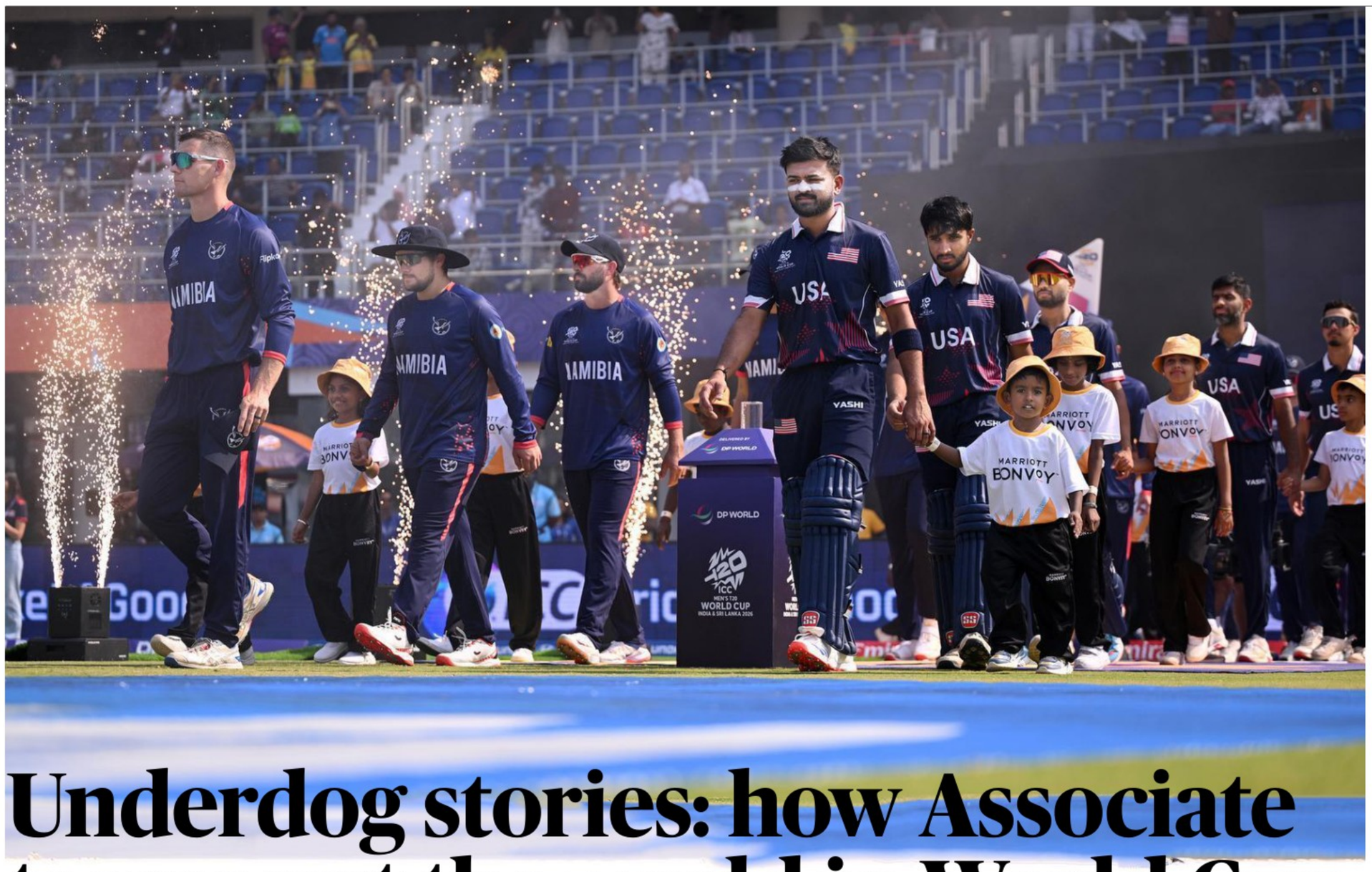
According to the police, the first round of stone pelting occurred when the Shivaji Jayanti procession was moving through the old city at night. Later, some stones were thrown on meat shops in Killa Oni area on Friday morning.

No one was injured in the stone pelting in Bagalkot on Thursday night, Bagalkot police clarified on Friday.

The two stones that were thrown hit SP Siddarth Goel and another police officer, officer said. "However, we got only minor scratches and no major injuries," Mr. Goel told reporters.

He dismissed as baseless some reports stating that communal elements had conspired to throw stones at the procession or that some persons were moving around with rods to provoke violence.

Mr. Goel said the incident was unrelated to the late-night Ramzan prayers at the nearby mosque.



Underdog stories: how Associate teams put the world in World Cup

In addition to making the tournament more global, USA, Italy, Nepal, Scotland, Canada, the Netherlands, Namibia, Oman and UAE have produced competitive, sometimes magical, cricket at T20's showpiece event. It is necessary to lend an ear to their challenges and address them to ensure that the momentum Associate cricket has built up doesn't dissipate

Vivek Krishnan

A World Cup, by its very nomenclature, implies the involvement of the world – a sporting spectacle that makes space for a wide array of countries, with distinct customs, cuisines, quirks and languages, to converge in one location in pursuit of a shared dream.

It is a concept that football comes closest to pulling off on a quadrennial basis because of its universal spread and appeal. Cricket on the other hand?

Not inclusive enough

Historically, the willow game, whose roots can be traced back to 16th century England, has been the preserve of a select few.

Sure, South Asia – with India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh (notwithstanding the recent fiasco) and, in the past decade, Afghanistan – is currently well-represented. Australia and New Zealand, on opposite sides of the Tasman Sea, have a proud cricketing legacy.

South Africa, banned by the game's governing body during the 1970s and 80s because of its government's apartheid policy, now flies the flag for the continent of Africa. The idea of the Caribbean islands forging a cohesive identity is unique to cricket. Zimbabwe and Ireland complete the list of the International Cricket Council's full members.

But for much of the rest of the world, cricket may be more identifiable as a six-legged insect than as a game of glorious uncertainties.

> It's not rocket science. If you play more cricket, you're going to get better. So, all the Associate nations are calling out for the same thing
>
> **CRAIG WILLIAMS**
> Namibia coach

Against this backdrop, the ongoing T20 World Cup has been a breath of fresh air. For starters, it is just the second time, after the 2024 iteration in the United States and Caribbean, that the shortest format's marquee event has featured 20 teams. For context, the men's ODI World Cup, launched in 1975 with eight teams, has included no more than 16 in a single edition – in 2007.

While the ICC has viewed T20 as an ideal vehicle to enlarge cricket's footprint, it has been accompanied by scepticism about a prolonged tournament gnawing away at its allure. Before the start of this edition on February 7, former India off-spinner R. Ashwin voiced that apprehension on his YouTube channel. His opinion must have resonated with his audience, for the prospect of India thumping Namibia or England riding roughshod over Nepal seemed plausible on paper.

A fortnight later, it is fair to say that concerns of too many dreary, one-sided affairs in the preliminary phase were misplaced.

The tone was set on the opening day. In the first game, the Netherlands, which had upset South Africa in the 2022 T20 World Cup, was arguably one catch away from vanquishing Pakistan in Colombo – Max O'Dowd spilled Faheem Ashraf when the Asian giant needed 23 from 11 balls with three wickets in hand.

Later that evening at Mumbai's Wankhede Stadium, the USA, contrary to the official broadcaster's disparaging tone of coverage that centred around India possibly breaching the 300-run mark, reduced the defending champion to 77 for six. The host heaved a sigh of relief only after Suryakumar Yadav's unbeaten 84.

GETTY IMAGES

> If you look at cricket all over the world, the smaller teams are really coming up. It is a good thing that cricket is growing
>
> **LALCHAND RAJPUT**
> UAE coach

The next day, a major chunk of the 17,000-plus fans in attendance at the venue adjacent to Marine Drive were clad in Nepal's red and blue as its national team provided Harry Brook's England an almighty scare. If Lokesh Bam had dispatched the final ball from Sam Curran in a chase of 185 over the ropes, he would have sent the landlocked country on India's northern border into a state of euphoria.

Making history

The spirit of Associate teams offering moments of magic has stayed intact right through. Even if Nepal was at the receiving end, it played its part in history unfolding when Italy, at the Wankhede on February 12, notched up its first-ever World Cup win.

That sentence may have elicited a quizzical look even until a month ago, when few casual fans knew Italy had a cricket team, let alone one that had qualified for its maiden World Cup. The land is widely renowned for its food, fashion and football, but cricket just didn't seem to feature in its national consciousness. It is worth mentioning, however, that AC Milan, one of Italy's most revered football clubs, was founded as the Milan Football and Cricket Club by English expatriates in 1899.

Italy's presence in the subcontinental showpiece is a firm step towards the augmentation of the cricketing map. The caveat, of course, is the motley make-up of the team: it essentially consists of Australian, South African and English cricketers with Italian ancestry as well as a few south Asian immigrants. None of the 15-member squad was born in Italy. JJ Smuts, who played six ODIs and 13 T20Is for South Africa before switching allegiance, has never even been to Italy.

Still, a taste of the Italian flavour has been available. Crishan Kalugamage, a native of Sri Lanka, moved to Tuscany in central Italy with his family in his mid-teens, and started tossing pizzas for a living before tossing leg-breaks and googlies. In Italy's 10-wicket win over Nepal, the 34-year-old had a profound impact with three wickets.

What felt even more profound was the heartfelt speech that followed in Italian – a language hitherto unfamiliar to the cricketing world. "*Un momento storico per l'Italia* (a historic moment for Italy)," was how Kalugamage, with a Sri Lankan twang, began his brief address.

Whilst appreciating what the Associate teams have brought to this tournament, it is also necessary to lend an ear to their challenges. For nations like Canada and the Netherlands, for instance, cricket during the winter months is unfeasible. "We only have three months in a year to play cricket. We train indoors [the rest of the time]," says Canadian pacer Dillon Heyliger.

For the Namibians, a new stadium in Windhoek, inaugurated in 2025, is a sign of progress. The venue will host matches in the 2027 ODI World Cup. But more cricket, ideally against the full members, isn't yet forthcoming. Before landing in India for the World Cup, Namibia hadn't played a T20I for four months.

"It's not rocket science. If you play more cricket, you're going to get better. So, all the Associate nations are calling out for the same thing," Namibia coach Craig Williams points out.

Few are as experienced as Lalchand Rajput, the current UAE coach who has worked with Afghanistan and Zimbabwe previously, in assessing Associate cricket.

Has he been pleasantly surprised by the performances of these teams? "I'm not, because we play among Associate teams. If you look at cricket all over the world, the smaller teams are really coming up. It is a good thing that cricket is growing," he says.

Finding game-time

But Rajput recognises that the momentum will dissipate without more frequent game-time between World Cups. At the same time, Rajput realises that it is not a profitable proposition for the top teams to engage with the Associates in bilateral contests.

It is a dilemma, but the less-fancied sides have done their bit over the past couple of weeks. Now, it's the ICC's turn to act if it wants the world in the World Cup to stay relevant.

STACKING UP

ATP Men's Top 15

#	Player	Age	Points	Events
1	Carlos Alcaraz	22	13,150	18
2	Jannik Sinner	24	10,300	18
3	Novak Djokovic	38	5,280	19
4	Alexander Zverev	28	4,605	23
5	Lorenzo Musetti	23	4,405	22
6	Alex de Minaur	26	4,250	23
7	Felix Auger-Aliassime	25	4,230	27
8	Taylor Fritz	28	4,220	22
9	Ben Shelton	23	4,050	23
10	Alexander Bublik	28	3,405	27
11	Daniil Medvedev	30	3,010	24
12	Jack Draper	24	2,790	17
13	Casper Ruud	27	2,625	21
14	Andrey Rublev	28	2,510	24
15	A. Davidovich Fokina	26	2,470	25

Top Indians ▶

Sumit Nagal
Rank 297 ▼ 4 spots

Aryan Shah
Rank 411 ▼ 10 spots

WTA Women's Top 15

#	Player	Age	Points	Events
1	Aryna Sabalenka	27	10,870	20
2	Iga Swiatek	24	7,803	20
3	Elena Rybakina	26	7,523	22
4	Coco Gauff	21	6,423	20
5	Jessica Pegula	31	5,888	23
6	Amanda Anisimova	24	5,690	21
7	Mirra Andreeva	18	4,786	20
8	Jasmine Paolini	30	4,157	19
9	Elina Svitolina	31	3,260	16
10	Victoria Mboko	19	3,246	22
11	Karolina Muchova	29	3,058	16
12	Ekaterina Alexandrova	31	2,918	26
13	Belinda Bencic	28	2,843	19
14	Linda Noskova	21	2,571	23
15	Clara Tauson	23	2,530	24

Top Indians ▶

Sahaja Yamalapalli
Rank 416 ▲ 12 spots

Vaidehee Chaudhari
Rank 475 ▼ 2 spots

English Premier League Standings

#	Team	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
1	Arsenal	27	17	7	3	52	20	32	58
2	Man. City	26	16	5	5	54	24	30	53
3	Aston Villa	26	15	5	6	37	27	10	50
4	Man. United	26	12	9	5	47	37	10	45
5	Chelsea	26	12	8	6	47	30	17	44
6	Liverpool	26	12	6	8	41	35	6	42
7	Brentford	26	12	4	10	40	35	5	40
8	Everton	26	10	7	9	29	30	-1	37
9	Bournemouth	26	9	10	7	43	45	-2	37
10	Newcastle	26	10	6	10	37	37	0	36
11	Sunderland	26	9	9	8	27	30	-3	36
12	Fulham	26	10	4	12	35	40	-5	34
13	Crystal Palace	26	8	8	10	28	32	-4	32
14	Brighton	26	7	10	9	34	34	0	31
15	Leeds United	26	7	9	10	36	45	-9	30
16	Tottenham	26	7	8	11	36	37	-1	29
17	N. Forest	26	7	6	13	25	38	-13	27
18	West Ham	26	6	6	14	32	49	-17	24
19	Burnley	26	4	6	16	28	51	-23	18
20	Wolves	27	1	7	19	18	50	-32	10

Italian Serie A Standings

#	Team	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
1	Inter Milan	25	20	1	4	60	21	39	61
2	AC Milan	25	15	9	1	41	19	22	54
3	Napoli	25	15	5	5	38	25	13	50
4	Roma	25	15	2	8	31	16	15	47
5	Juventus	25	13	7	5	43	23	20	46
6	Como	25	11	9	5	39	19	20	42
7	Atalanta	25	11	9	5	34	21	13	42
8	Bologna	25	9	6	10	34	32	2	33
9	Lazio	25	8	9	8	26	25	1	33
10	Sassuolo	25	9	5	11	29	35	-6	32
11	Udinese	25	9	5	11	28	38	-10	32
12	Parma	25	7	8	10	18	31	-13	29
13	Cagliari	25	7	7	11	28	35	-7	28
14	Torino	25	7	6	12	25	44	-19	27
15	Genoa	25	5	9	11	29	37	-8	24
16	Cremonese	25	5	9	11	21	33	-12	24
17	Lecce	25	6	6	13	17	31	-14	24
18	Fiorentina	25	4	9	12	29	39	-10	21
19	Pisa	25	1	12	12	20	42	-22	15
20	Verona	25	2	9	14	19	43	-24	15

Spanish LaLiga Standings

#	Team	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
1	Real Madrid	24	19	3	2	53	19	34	60
2	Barcelona	24	19	1	4	64	25	39	58
3	Villarreal	24	15	3	6	45	26	19	48
4	Atletico Madrid	24	13	6	5	38	21	17	45
5	Real Betis	24	11	8	5	39	29	10	41
6	Espanyol	24	10	5	9	29	33	-4	35
7	Celta Vigo	24	8	10	6	32	27	5	34
8	Real Sociedad	24	8	7	9	34	35	-1	31
9	Athletic Club	24	9	4	11	27	34	-7	31
10	Osasuna	24	8	6	10	28	28	0	30
11	Getafe	24	8	5	11	20	28	-8	29
12	Girona	24	7	8	9	24	38	-14	29
13	Sevilla	24	7	5	12	31	39	-8	26
14	Alaves	24	7	5	12	21	30	-9	26
15	Valencia	24	6	8	10	25	37	-12	26
16	Elche	24	5	10	9	31	35	-4	25
17	Rayo Vallecano	23	6	7	10	21	30	-9	25
18	Real Mallorca	24	6	6	12	29	39	-10	24
19	Levante	24	4	6	14	26	41	-15	18
20	Real Oviedo	23	3	7	13	13	36	-23	16

German Bundesliga Standings

#	Team	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
1	Bayern	22	18	3	1	82	19	63	57
2	Dortmund	22	15	6	1	47	20	27	51
3	Hoffenheim	22	14	3	5	47	28	19	45
4	Stuttgart	22	13	3	6	41	29	12	42
5	RB Leipzig	22	12	4	6	42	30	12	40
6	Leverkusen	21	12	3	6	43	27	16	39
7	Eintracht	22	8	7	7	44	46	-2	31
8	SC Freiburg	22	8	6	8	32	36	-4	30
9	Hamburg	21	6	7	8	24	31	-7	25
10	Union Berlin	22	6	7	9	28	37	-9	25
11	FC Augsburg	22	7	4	11	25	39	-14	25
12	Cologne	22	6	5	11	31	37	-6	23
13	M'gladbach	22	5	7	10	25	37	-12	22
14	Mainz	22	5	6	11	25	37	-12	21
15	Wolfsburg	22	5	5	12	31	46	-15	20
16	Werder	22	4	7	11	22	42	-20	19
17	St Pauli	22	4	5	13	20	39	-19	17
18	Heidenheim	22	3	4	15	19	48	-29	13

Test Batting

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Joe Root	880	932
2	Harry Brook	857	898
3	Travis Head	853	884
4	Steve Smith	831	947
5	Kane Williamson	822	919
6	Kamindu Mendis	781	784
7	Temba Bavuma	775	806
8	Yashasvi Jaiswal	750	858
9	Saud Shakeel	734	787
10	Shubman Gill	730	807

Test Bowling

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Jasprit Bumrah	879	908
2	Noman Ali	843	853
3	Mitchell Starc	838	852
4	Matt Henry	836	853
5	Pat Cummins	832	914
6	Marco Jansen	825	825
7	Scott Boland	820	820
8	Kagiso Rabada	807	902
9	Josh Hazlewood	775	864
10	Nathan Lyon	753	812

ODI Batting

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Daryl Mitchell	845	845
2	Virat Kohli	795	909
3	Ibrahim Zadran	764	764
4	Rohit Sharma	757	882
5	Shubman Gill	723	847
6	Babar Azam	722	898
7	Harry Tector	708	767
8	Shai Hope	701	802
9	Charith Asalanka	672	725
10	K.L. Rahul	670	683

ODI Bowling

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Rashid Khan	710	799
2	Jofra Archer	650	683
3	Keshav Maharaj	646	741
4	Bernard Scholtz	645	648
5	Adil Rashid	632	675
6	Josh Hazlewood	628	727
6	Maheesh Theekshana	628	686
8	Kuldeep Yadav	625	761
9	Abrar Ahmed	624	630
10	Mitchell Santner	617	657

T20I Batting

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Abhishek Sharma	891	931
2	Phil Salt	808	881
3	Pathum Nissanka	786	794
4	Tilak Varma	751	845
5	Sahibzada Farhan	748	782
6	Suryakumar Yadav	747	912
7	Jos Buttler	744	794
8	Ishan Kishan	732	765
9	Tim Seifert	721	740
10	Travis Head	695	885

T20I Bowling

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Varun Chakaravarthy	796	818
2	Rashid Khan	740	828
3	Abrar Ahmed	734	757
4	Adil Rashid	703	747
5	Brad Evans	680	680
6	Wanindu Hasaranga	677	809
7	Jacob Duffy	670	750
8	Adam Zampa	667	746
9	Mohammad Nawaz	665	672
9	Mustafizur Rahman	665	718

GBA is now a 86-member body

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) has been revised with 86 members now forming the authority. The revised notification released on Friday includes several additional members compared to the previous 75-member body.

The government decided to add these names based on seniority and scale of representation, the GBA officials said. Among those named in the revised list are Rajya Sabha member Sudha Murty, member of Lok Sabha and former Minister K. Sudhakar, MLA C.N. Ashwath Narayan, Munirathna, among others. The reconstitution follows the passage of the Greater Bengaluru Governance (Second Amendment) Bill, 2025, which was adopted by the Legislative Assembly in December 2025.

The amendment provides for members of the Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha, Legislative Assembly and Legislative Council to be included as members of the GBA, provided their constituencies fall within its jurisdiction.

Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar had then pointed out in the Assembly that the names of certain elected representatives had been left out of the earlier GBA composition despite being within its jurisdiction.

Inspection team to review PG accommodations

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Bengaluru East City Corporation has constituted a joint inspection team to conduct a detailed review of Paying Guest (PG) accommodations, Commissioner D.S. Ramesh said on Friday.

The team has been directed to complete inspections of all PGs within 15 days and submit a compliance report.

During inspections, officials will verify whether buildings conform to approved plans and whether they are located in designated commercial zones. They will also check for mandatory fire safety clearances, including No Objection Certificates from the Fire Department, installation of CCTV cameras with a minimum of 90 days of data storage, and provision of at least 70 sq. ft of space per occupant.

Availability of first-aid kits, basic medical facilities, safe drinking water, valid FSSAI certification where food is prepared, adequate security arrangements, proper waste segregation and disposal, and display of emergency contact numbers will also be examined.

Action will be taken against owners of establishments that are found violating norms, the Commissioner said.

Panel to investigate train derailment on Yellow Line at Hebbagodi depot

Preliminary inputs indicate that the derailment caused damage to certain track supports and components associated with the traction system and rolling stock

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Though designed for fully automated driverless operations, the Yellow Line corridor is currently functioning in semi-automated GoA-2 mode, with drivers present onboard.
PHOTO FOR REPRESENTATIONAL PURPOSE ONLY

The Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) has initiated an internal investigation into the derailment of a train on the Namma Metro's Yellow Line at the Hebbagodi depot. The incident occurred in the early hours of January 15, when a driverless train set went off the tracks on the depot premises.

According to officials, the Train Set 3 derailed at approximately 5.30 a.m. inside the depot. The BMRCL constituted a six-member in-house fact-finding committee the following day, January 16, to examine the sequence of events that led to the mishap and to determine accountability.

According to sources, preliminary inputs indicate that the derailment caused damage to certain track supports and components associated with the traction system and rolling stock. The precise scale of the damage and the financial implications are yet to be assessed.

"A detailed technical evaluation is under way to know the exact reason for the incident. Only after the inquiry is completed and all inspections are finalised will we be in a position to quantify the extent of the structural and equipment damage, as well as the cost of restoration," a senior official said.

'The objective is to present a comprehensive report to the management, along with clear findings, recommendations to prevent any recurrence'

Elaborating on the committee's mandate, the official said, "The panel has been tasked with establishing an accurate and evidence-based account of the incident. It will examine operational logs, signalling data, maintenance records, and staff deployment details to identify every factor that may have contributed to the derailment. The objective is to present a comprehensive report to the management, along with clear findings and recommendations to prevent any recurrence."

The official added that the inquiry would also closely examine human and procedural aspects. "The functioning and responsibilities of the train operator, depot controller, and other personnel concerned are being thoroughly scrutinised. We are assessing whether established standard operating procedures were adhered to and if there were any lapses in coordination, supervision, or system response," the official said.

The 19.15-km Yellow Line, connecting R.V. Road and Bommasandra and serving the technology hub of Electronics City, was inaugurated in August 2025. Though designed for fully automated driverless (GoA-4) operations, the corridor is currently functioning in semi-automated GoA-2 mode, with drivers present onboard.

The line presently runs with a fleet of around seven trains.

Since its operation, services have progressively improved from initial 25-minute intervals to peak-hour frequencies of 10-15 minutes. On weekdays, the line records an average ridership of nearly one lakh passengers.

Bengaluru-Delhi-Bengaluru is Akasa Air's most popular pet route

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Bengaluru-Delhi-Bengaluru route is the most popular pet travel route in Akasa Air's 'Pets on Akasa' service. The airline, which on Friday announced the milestone of flying over 10,000 pets since the launch of this service in November 2022, said that the Bengaluru-Delhi-Bengaluru has emerged as the most popular pet travel route, accounting for 13.66% of all pet travel.

Beyond metro cities, strong demand has emerged from tier II and tier III markets, with Guwahati among the most travelled routes for pet parents. FILE PHOTO

Festive season

It further said that the pet travel saw the highest demand during the festive season, with October-December accounting for nearly 35% of annual journeys and monthly volumes nearly 63% higher, reflecting a growing trend of pet parents travelling together with their pets during holidays. It said that from Labradors and Golden Retrievers to Shih Tzus and Indies, pets of various breeds have taken to the skies, indicating the mainstreaming of pet travel.

Labradors and Golden Retrievers to Shih Tzus and Indies, pets of various breeds have taken to the skies, says the airline

Beyond metro cities, strong demand has emerged from tier II and tier III markets, with Guwahati among the most travelled routes for pet parents.

"Of the 10,000 furry travellers, 60% pets were dogs and 40% were cat, and 93% of pets travelled in-cabin. Akasa Air has seen remarkable loyalty from individual customers. One pet parent has flown 26 times on the Mumbai-Goa route with his miniature poodle, Romeo, a testament to the consistency and reliability of Akasa Air's pet travel experience," the Akasa Air said.

From the very start, pets on Akasa was built around the needs of pet parents, with a focus on creating a structured, safe and consistently dependable travel experience.

By actively listening to feedback and continually enhancing the service, we have earned strong loyalty. "Around 26% of pet parents have travelled with us more than once, which reflects the trust they place in the experience. This milestone strengthens our commitment to elevating pet travel in India and ensuring every journey is safer, more comfortable, and truly stress free for pets and their families," Naarayan T.V., chief marketing officer, Akasa Air, said.

A view of the under construction Ejipura Flyover in Bengaluru.
SUDHAKARA JAIN

'Ejipura flyover must be completed by July'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Bengaluru's long-pending Ejipura Flyover has been given a firm deadline, with the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) Chief Commissioner M. Maheshwar Rao directing the contractor to complete the entire project by the end of July.

During an inspection of development works on Friday, Mr. Rao reviewed the progress of the flyover and expressed dissatisfaction over the slow pace. He instructed the contractor to use additional machinery and manpower and to carry out multiple components of the project simultaneously to avoid further delays. Mr. Rao argued that nearly three weeks had passed since issues related to the installation of pillars near St. John's were resolved, yet piling work had begun only recently. He ordered that piling be completed within 15 days and that pile cap and pillar construction proceed alongside piling, and superstructure segment casting be taken up parallelly to speed up the execution.

The Hindu Group's Living Spaces 2026 opens today

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Hindu Group will present yet another edition of its flagship property expo, Living Spaces 2026, at the Chandra Sagara Convention Hall, 2nd Block, Jayanagar (near Ashoka Pillar), Bengaluru, on February 21 and 22.

The two-day real estate showcase will be inaugurated on Saturday at 9.30 a.m. by Minister for Transport Ramalinga Reddy, who has consented to attend the event as the chief guest. Living Spaces 2026 aims to provide a comprehensive platform for leading real estate developers, investors, financial institutions, turnkey builders, and construction material providers to connect with prospective home buyers and investors. The expo will feature a wide range of offerings, including apartments, plots, villas, farmland, and housing loan facilities from various banks.

The event is expected to draw significant footfall from homebuyers and investors seeking trusted property investments and housing finance options under one roof.

The title sponsor for the event is Vaishnavi Developers and powered by Orchids, Bangalore Development Authority, in association with DS Max, SBR Group.

The gold sponsors are Sapthagiri, Assetz, Repco Bank, Living Walls, Sudharshan Pipes, Elegant Builders, Abhee Ventures, A&A Realty (Mysore), Amberstone, Telecom Housing, Sowparnika, A to Z Properties, KNS Infra, IDBI Bank, Alliance Square (Mysore), Sentient, Rajeshwari Ashirwad, Mogg's, Nischitha, Habulus, among others. The beverage partner is Cothas Coffee, jewellery partner Prathibha Jewellery, and food partner, Empire Hotel

Venue:
Chandra Sagara Convention Hall, 264/266, T. Mariyappa Road, 2nd Block, Jayanagar (near Ashoka Pillar), Bengaluru- 560011.

Dates and time:
February 21 & 22, 2026 (Saturday and Sunday), Timing: 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

From Page One

School dropout rate drops at primary level

And most of the schools suffer from lack of basic facilities, which has led to the increase in the dropout rate."

Besides, poverty and migration are also factors, and the government had failed to address these problems effectively, he alleged.

Speaking about the high dropout rate at the high school level, he said that the main reason was the distance of the school and lack of transport system.

"There should be one high school for every 2-3 km. But the distance between the students' homes and schools has increased, and the lack of proper transport system has also led to the increase in dropout. The government has also stopped the cycle distribution scheme for high school students. Girls, especially those from far-flung schools, are dropping out of school," he contended.

School Education Minister Madhu Bangarappa said, "The poor, rural and socially and economically backward children are studying in government schools in large numbers. But the lack of pre-school facilities in these schools, and the fact that pre-primary, upper primary and high schools are located in different places, are the main reasons for the increase in dropout. Our government has emphasised on starting LKG, UKG, bilingual sections in government schools. In addition, Karnataka Public Schools (KPS) are being started to provide education from pre-school to class 12 under one roof. Due to this, the dropout rate will reduce significantly in the coming years."

He added: "In addition, midday meals, egg, banana and hot milk are being given five days a week, and shoes, socks and textbooks are provided for free to promote children's education."

Activist Snehamayi Krishna booked, questioned

It was during Mr. Natesh's tenure as MUDA Commissioner that the Chief Minister's wife B.M. Parvathi was allotted 14 alternative sites in lieu of 3.16 acres of land. The ED had raided him, but the High Court later quashed the ED proceedings against him.

Earlier in the day on Friday, CCB officials, armed with a search warrant obtained from the court, raided two residences of Mr. Krishna in Mysuru.

His son Vivek, speaking to mediapersons in Mysuru, said the police had seized several documents and digital storage devices.

Condemning the police action, he said the government would be responsible if anything were to happen to his father.

"They tried to bribe my father to back off from his struggle against corruption in MUDA. But when he did not budge, they have now arrested him," he alleged.

Earlier this week, Mr. Krishna had posted an audio on Facebook, which he claimed to be of Mr. Natesh talking to an unidentified person, asking him to arrange a face-to-face meeting with Mr. Krishna.

In his complaint, Mr. Natesh claimed the audio was fake. Further Mr. Krishna had alleged that Mr. Natesh had bribed Chief Secretary Shalini Rajaneesh to get a promotion. He had also written to the Income Tax and Directorate of Enforcement making the same charges and demanded that both bureaucrats be probed.

"Mr. Krishna is cooperating with the investigation and is providing us details. We are cross-checking facts. We will arrest him if we find he is either trying to mislead us or his version of events do not corroborate with facts," a senior Bengaluru police official said. Sources said police have seized his phone and are subjecting it to forensic examination.

The police action has drawn flak from BJP. Leader of Opposition in the Karnataka Legislative Assembly R. Ashok said the Congress government had imposed an undeclared emergency in the State, targeting anyone who is opposed to the ruling dispensation.

Union Minister Pralhad Joshi said the Chief Minister had been waiting to take revenge against Mr. Krishna, and had misused the opportunity.

Three killed in separate accidents

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Three persons were killed in separate accidents in the city since Thursday night.

A 40-year-old homemaker was killed in a hit-and-run accident in Ulsoor. The deceased, Usharani, was hit by a speeding bike when she was trying to cross the busy road near Adarsha Junction. Due to the impact of the collision, she suffered severe head injuries and was killed on the spot. However, the bike rider did not stop and fled from the scene. The Ulsoor Traffic Police have registered a case and launched a probe to track the fleeing biker. In another accident, Ashish, 19, while riding his bike, allegedly in a rash manner, rammed a bus near Electronics City around 9 p.m. He suffered severe head injuries and died en route to the hospital.

In another accident in the same area, Hrudayananda, 45, lost control of the scooter and rammed a tree near Birla Circle and died on the spot.

Chess is more than just a game to me; it's my world, it's the core of my life

Alexandra Kosteniuk is one of the most decorated players in chess history, having won multiple World titles, the World Cup, Olympiads and the GCL. In this conversation, she talks about what the game means to her, how it has changed with the advent of computers, what motivates her to compete at the top level in her 40s and why she isn't a content creator anymore

GETTY IMAGES

INTERVIEW

Alexandra Kosteniuk

P.K. Ajith Kumar

When Alexandra Kosteniuk became a Grandmaster in 2004, at the age of 19, she joined an exclusive ladies' club. Only nine women before her had become Grandmasters. She has since won the World Championship, the World Cup and the World Rapid Championship. She was a part of Russia's Olympiad-winning team on three successive occasions. At 41, she continues to be a force on the chessboard. Excerpts from an interview Kosteniuk gave *The Hindu* in Mumbai:

How do you look back at playing the World Championship final at 17, against Zhu Chen in 2001?

I didn't think much of it at the time. You just live the moment. But now when you think about it, it seems unbelievable.

Then seven years later, you won your first World title, defeating Hou Yifan in the final. You had started as the ninth seed. Hou was seeded third.

She was 14 at that time, but of course not a regular 14-year-old. And now Gukesh is the World champion, he won the title at 18. I think that is normal nowadays as kids. I was, of course, very happy when I won my first World title. When I play a tournament, regardless of its level, I just focus on my moves.

> I am happy that I started playing when there were almost no computers, because now chess is a lot about memory. There is a bit less creativity. I like the creative part, I don't like memorisation

How much do you think chess has changed from the time you started?

Quite a lot, with the arrival of the computers first. Because when I started, there were no computers. Or rather, there were computers, but not this much, not this kind. You know, I started playing chess in 1989. Then, computers came into our lives, and of course the game has changed a lot. The amount of information that you need to absorb daily is huge. I am happy that I started playing when there were almost no computers at all, because now chess is a lot about memory and about spending hours and hours with your computer. So, there is a bit less creativity. And in chess, I like the creative part, I don't like memorisation. But one needs to adapt, too. There is a new wave of players, and you need to adapt if you want to stay competitive.

You used to maintain an interesting blog on chess...

Nowadays, I don't have enough energy, so I try to prioritise my actions. When I started my YouTube channel, it was back in 2009, I think I was one of the pioneers [among chess players]. And now there are many content creators on YouTube and other platforms.

Including the hugely popular Hikaru Nakamura...

Yeah, and they are doing it very professionally, with all the support, everything. It is like a whole profession now. But I did it on my own.

GCL

You were a part of the Russian team that won three Olympiads back to back, in 2010, 12 and 14.

Every victory was special. And the Olympiad is a team thing. I have always liked team events. That is one of the reasons why I play in the Global Chess League (GCL) every year. The team events give chess another meaning. When you have won so many titles from individual events, one more title for yourself doesn't bring you anything special. But if you win as a team, it gives you a lot more.

At the 2024 GCL in London, it was your performance that helped Triveni Continental Kings retain the title.

Well, my first GCL [with Chingari Gulf Titans in Dubai 2023] was not that great, but the second was excellent. I believe that the team loses together and wins together, so we won it as a team. I was happy to contribute to my team's victory in the final. The atmosphere in the team was even better in the third season of the GCL [Mumbai 2025].

How is the GCL different from the other tournaments you have played in over the years?

It is an interesting event. We need to play as a team although we barely know each other sometimes, unlike the Olympiad, for instance. At the Olympiad, you have known your teammates for years. At the GCL, only after the draft, you will find out who you are going to play with.

This year, since I was playing for the same team, it was a little bit easier, because half of the team stayed.

So, we already know at least half of the team. But nevertheless, this team atmosphere sometimes just works well, sometimes it doesn't. You cannot really explain it. But, well, for me, I am enjoying being part of my team a lot. We had blitz sessions every morning, playing against each other.

Do you think a tournament like the GCL will help chess develop more, maybe make it more popular, more mainstream?

The organisers try to make this tournament a product, which is an interesting attempt. It is quite challenging. It is not always easy with chess. I have been playing chess for many years, and I know that it is not easy. But I am glad to see their efforts. Every year, I could see the improvement. Whether it is going to be enough to make a boom or not, well, it is another question. But I think it is a small step in the right direction. Well, sometimes it is the journey that counts, and not the final result.

You have been playing competitive chess at the top level for so long, and won the World Rapid title as well as the World Cup in 2021. What keeps you going? You are playing against rivals who are of your daughter's age.

Tournaments like the GCL are my motivation. Because those are rapid [and not classical] tournaments, it is easier for me to play. Because energy-wise, at 40 you are not at the same level as a 20-year-old. But in rapid you can still compete quite well. So I like rapid and blitz chess a lot. I like that those formats are developing. And, well, chess is my world, actually.

Was that the case from the time you were a little girl, after learning the game at the age of five?

Little by little, chess became more than just a game for me. And it is a place where I enjoy myself. I have a lot of friends, and I have had a lot of interesting games. I have once compared chess to a religion. It is the core of my life. It lets me survive in many difficult situations.

In 2013, you became the first woman to win the Swiss men's championship. Your thoughts on women competing against men over the chessboard? Women like Judit Polgar, Hou and Koneru Humpy have done rather well against men.

That is normal. Chess is not a physical sport. It is an intellectual sport. It is harder for women because of some sociological, physiological factors. And even though there is a gap in rating, still some women have proven that it is possible to compete well [against men]. Judit was in the top ten [in men's chess].

GAME THEORY

The Mondo Eclipse: in Duplantis' shadow

One way of getting a sense of Armand Duplantis' dominance of the pole vault is to see what the discipline would look like without him. We list the top 50 vaults of all time, but without any of Duplantis' best clearances, which include the 14 highest in history (world record 6.30m)

RENAUD LAVILLENIE

SERGEY BUBKA

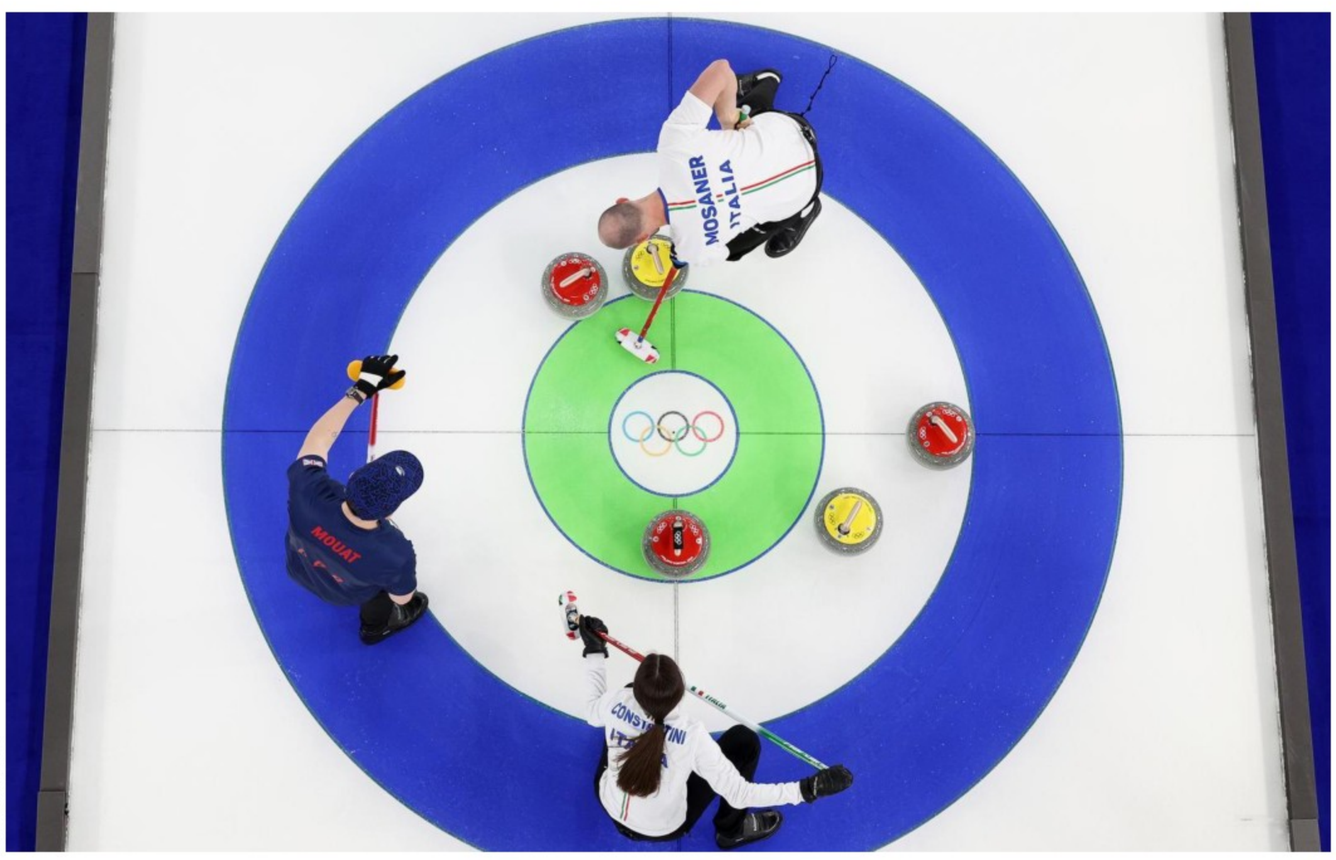
THE BEST NON-DUPLANTIS VAULTS IN HISTORY

Rank	Mark (m)	Athlete	Venue	Date
15	6.16	Renaud Lavillenie	Donetsk (i)	15 Feb 2014
17	6.15	Sergey Bubka	Donetsk (i)	21 Feb 1993
22	6.14	Sergey Bubka	Lievin (i)	13 Feb 1993
22	6.14	Sergey Bubka	Sestriere	31 Jul 1994
24	6.13	Sergey Bubka	Berlin (i)	21 Feb 1992
24	6.13	Sergey Bubka	Tokyo	19 Sep 1992
27	6.12	Sergey Bubka	Grenoble (i)	23 Mar 1991
27	6.12	Sergey Bubka	Padova	30 Aug 1992
30	6.11	Sergey Bubka	Donetsk (i)	19 Mar 1991
30	6.11	Sergey Bubka	Dijon	13 Jun 1992
35	6.10	Sergey Bubka	San Sebastian (i)	15 Mar 1991
35	6.10	Sergey Bubka	Malmo	05 Aug 1991
47	6.09	Sergey Bubka	Formia	08 Jul 1991
48	6.08	Sergey Bubka	Volgograd (i)	09 Feb 1991
48	6.08	Sergey Bubka	Moskva	09 Jun 1991
48	6.08	Renaud Lavillenie	Bydgoszcz (i)	31 Jan 2014
48	6.08	Emmanouil Karalis	Volos	02 Aug 2025

EMMANOUIL KARALIS

SOURCE: WORLD ATHLETICS

PICTURE THIS



GETTY IMAGES

Cold stones

Curling might look deceptively easy on the telly, but it demands extreme precision and several years of training. Some liken the sport to chess because of the strategy involved. Others describe it as a cross between darts and shuffleboard, but negotiated on ice.

Curling is contested by two teams of four. Competitors stand on one end of the playing surface (or sheet) and slide granite stones (weighing over 18kg) towards a bull's eye or 'house'.

Two team members accompany the stone, using brooms to alter the state of ice in front of it, shaping its path. There is also a fair bit of yelling (which seems particularly fun), with teammates shouting instructions to one another.

Curling is considered one of the oldest team sports. It's said to have originated in Scotland in the early 16th century, when the locals directed heavy stones to their targets across frozen lochs.

The fundamental objective of the sport remains the same — although the athletes are much fitter and more professional these days, as you will find at the Milano Cortina 2026 Winter Olympics in Italy.

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UTTAR PRADESH

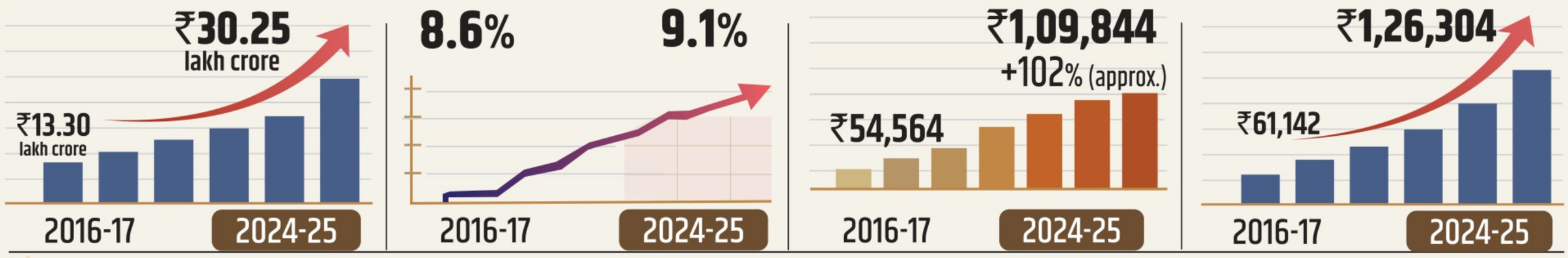
India's Fastest Growing-State Over the Last 8 Years

An overview of Uttar Pradesh's economic transformation and regional development

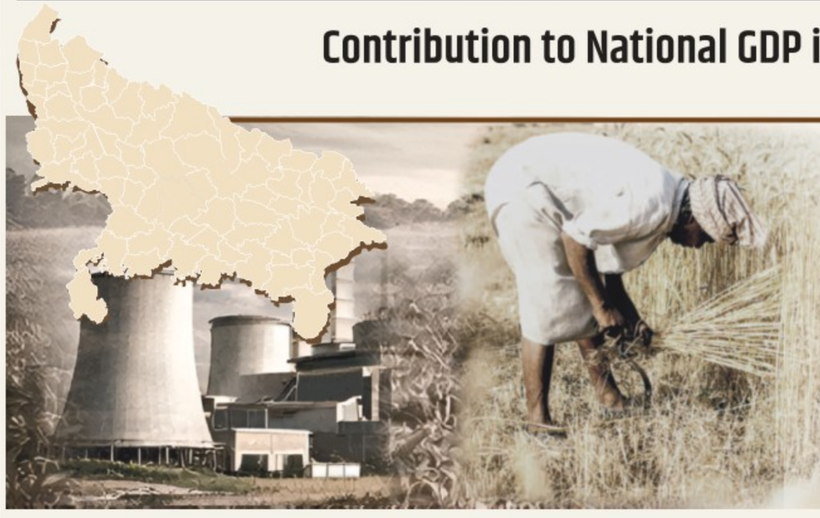
Uttar Pradesh's Economy more than doubled since 2017

Uttar Pradesh is experiencing rapid economic growth supported by agriculture, industry, and technological expansion. The state's economy represents the aspirations of more than 25 crore citizens, strengthened by agriculture, industrial development and technological innovation. U.P. has created a diversified economic base while social initiatives provide measurable indicator. Over the past decade, the state economy has transitioned from a consumption-driven structure to an investment-led growth model. Public infrastructure expansion, private industrial participation and rural income support have collectively strengthened economic resilience and broadened the base of growth.

ECONOMY AT A GLANCE



Contribution to National GDP increased from 8.6% to 9.1% • Per capita income has seen a remarkable rise



Agricultural Success

Agriculture continues to serve as the backbone of the state economy, supporting livelihoods while contributing significantly to food security and agro-based industry. Productivity improvements, irrigation expansion and farmer support measures have strengthened rural purchasing power and stimulated demand across markets. U.P. is leading agricultural producer in food grains, wheat, sugarcane, potato, banana, mango, guava, amla and mentha.

Industrial Progress

Industrial development has emerged as the second major growth pillar. The number of factories increased from 14,169 to 30,695, while manufacturing GVA grew by 25%. Exports rose from ₹0.84 lakh crore to ₹1.86 lakh crore (2017-2025). The One District One Product (ODOP) programme generated approximately 3.22 lakh jobs.

- Factories: **14,169 → 30,695**
- Manufacturing GVA: **+25%**
- Exports (₹ Lakh Crore): **0.84 → 1.86 → 1.31 (2025-26 Nov)**
- At the 2026 World Economic Forum, Uttar Pradesh attracted investment commitments totalling **₹2.94 lakh crore.**
- ODOP: **3.22 lakh jobs**

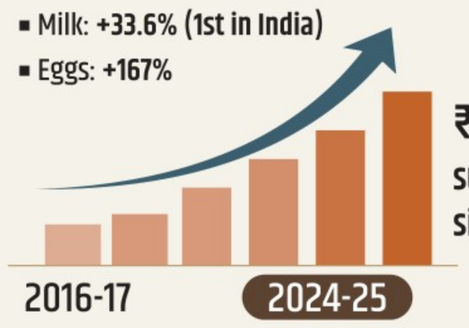
Major Achievements Snapshot

- 3rd consecutive Achiever in LEADS Index 2024
- Record plantation: **37.21 crore saplings**
- Highest PM Awas houses constructed
- 1.85 crore free LPG connections (Ujjwala)
- DBT agricultural subsidy leader
- GeM procurement leader
- Ayodhya Deepotsav Guinness World Record (26.17 lakh lamps)
- 10.22 crore Jan Dhan accounts (No.1)

Investment Momentum

- Industrial investment proposals exceeding ₹50 lakh crore
- Uttar Pradesh emerging as an investment-friendly state

- Food Grain: **+115.5%**
- Sugar Industry: **956.09 lakh tonnes**
- Cropping Intensity: **162.7% → 193.7%**
- Irrigated Area: **2.16 → 2.76 crore hectare**
- Crushing capacity: **92.45 lakh tonnes production**
- Milk: **+33.6% (1st in India)**
- Eggs: **+167%**



₹ 3.04 lakh crore
sugar cane payment since 2017

Social Empowerment

26.81 lakh girls benefited under Kanya Sumangala

Free hostel facilities for 9,432 students

Scholarships to 24.69 lakh students

11 lakh OBC students to benefit (2025-26)

Excellence in Education

Human capital development remains central to long-term growth. Expansion of universities, training centres, and sports infrastructure aims to improve employability and skill readiness.

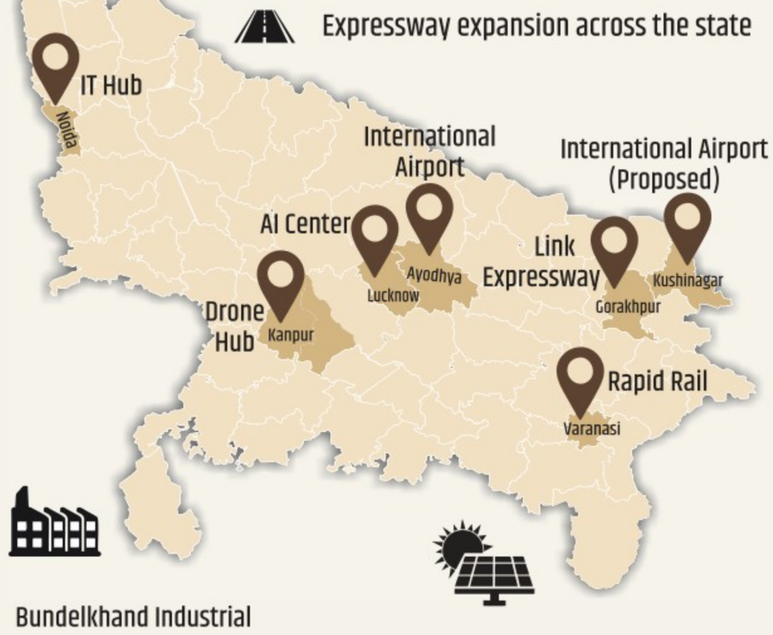
38 State Universities
52 Private Universities
163 Apprenticeship centres
918 Trainees cleared competitive exams

Major Dhyan Chand Sports College expansion and One District One Playfield initiative aim to prepare youth for emerging opportunities.

Infrastructure Revolution

Large-scale infrastructure projects aim to improve connectivity and regional accessibility across urban and rural areas.

- 5 International airports (4 operational & 1 in progress)
- First underground rapid rail in Varanasi
- Expressway expansion across the state



Bundelkhand Industrial Development Authority development Land Acquisition ongoing

Renewable energy share: 23% → 27%

Uttar Pradesh's growth is supported by agriculture, expanding industry, and services-sector participation

"Towards a Developed Uttar Pradesh by 2047"

A BG-BGE

Man who assaulted policemen gets 7 years in jail

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A rowdy who had allegedly attacked policemen while trying to resist arrest in 2021 was convicted by the court for attempt to murder and sentenced to seven years rigorous imprisonment, along with a fine of ₹25,000. The convict, Mohammed Saleem, was wanted in multiple cases. Acting on a tip-off that he was travelling in a car on Outer Ring Road near Hennur, a team of policemen from the Govindapura Police Station intercepted him and attempted to arrest him. He allegedly attacked the police personnel with a knife, injuring them and fled from the scene. A case was registered, and he was arrested for attempt to murder and illegal possession of arms. A chargesheet was filed , and the court convicted the accused on both charges.

Domestic help arrested for theft

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Police have arrested a domestic help for stealing 35 gm of gold jewellery from her employer's house in Bommanahalli.

The accused has been identified as Pramila, 35. Recently, her employer, a businessman, had lodged a complaint of theft. On suspicion, Pramila was questioned by the police when she reportedly confessed to the crime.

According to the police, Pramila was in a relationship with Sudhakar, whom she had known from her previous job at a garments factory. Sudhakar was already married and had two children.

Recovery

Around the time of Sankranthi festival, Sudhakar reportedly demanded ₹20,000 from Pramila to repay his debts. She allegedly stole a gold chain from the house where she was working, pawned it at a gold shop in Bommanahalli and gave him the money.

The police have recovered the gold chain and arrested Sudhakar as well.

APPOINTMENT

Advertisement No. 23/2026
Government of India
Public Enterprises Selection Board
invites applications for the post of

Director (Personnel)
in
Bharat Coking Coal Limited

Last date of submission of application by the applicant is by 15:00 hours on
13/03/2026
Last date of forwarding of applications by the Nodal officers to PESB is by 17:00 hours on
23/03/2026
For details login to website https://www.pesb.gov.in

NICDC UTTARAKHAND INDUSTRIAL TOWNSHIP LIMITED
CIN: U45203UR2022PLC014793
Regd. Office: 29, IIE, I.T. Park, Sahastradhara Road, Dehradun-248001, Uttarakhand
Email: cs@siidcul.com, Phone No. 0135-2708100

Advt. No: 66/CFO-CS/NUITL/2026 **Date: 20.02.2026**

NICDC Uttarakhand Industrial Township Limited (NUITL) invites applications from suitable candidates for appointment of **Chief Financial Officer (CFO) and Company Secretary (CS) on Regular Basis** from qualified persons. For detailed advertisement, Candidates are advised to visit **https://siidcul.com/recruitments**. Last date for receipt of applications from Interested Candidates in prescribed format is **16.03.2026** by 5:00 pm to be sent to **"The General Manager, State Infrastructure and Industrial Development Corporation of Uttarakhand Limited and Director, NICDC Uttarakhand Industrial Township Limited (NUITL), 29, IIE, I.T. Park, Sahastradhara Road, Dehradun-248001, Uttarakhand"** – Superscribed as Application for the post of CFO/CS - by Speed Post/Registered Post/Courier/ Email (gm@siidcul.com). Copy of the said application may be marked to **gm@siidcul.com**.

Start Date of Receiving Applications: 21.02.2026
End Date of Receiving Applications: 16.03.2026

Details of Regular Posts to be filled for NUITL

Sr. No.	Name of Post	No. of Post
1	Chief Financial Officer (CFO)	1
2	Company Secretary (CS)	1

CEO and MD
NUITL

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Dr Parul Ganju
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A BG-BGE

‘Green’ Bengaluru’s air quality on a par with the Netherlands: Dutch PM

PM Dick Schoof visited IISc, the Philips Innovation Campus, and Traffic Management Centre, where he was shown how Bengaluru Traffic Police’s ASTraM model functions

Rishita Khanna
BENGALURU

Netherlands Prime Minister Dick Schoof with DG&IGP M.A. Saleem, Police Commissioner Seemant Kumar Singh, Joint Commissioner of Police (Traffic) Karthik Reddy and others at the Traffic Management Centre in Bengaluru on Friday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Calling Bengaluru “green” and that it was the one thing that stood out to him the most, Prime Minister of the Netherlands Dick Schoof said he was struck by the city’s tree cover and “air quality” during his visit on Friday.

Mr. Schoof said that he had gone for a morning run, and the air quality surprised him. “The air quality was reasonably good, certainly better than Delhi,” he said, noting that when compared with air quality levels in the Netherlands, it was “roughly the same”.

The Prime Minister was in Bengaluru as part of his India visit. During his brief tour to the city, he visited the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), the Philips Innovation Campus, and the city’s Traffic Management Centre (TMC), where he was shown how the Bengaluru Traffic Police’s (BTP) ASTraM model functions.

Visit to TMC

Speaking to the media about the TMC, he pointed at the scale of Bengaluru’s congestion challenges. “You’ve (Bengaluru) got a big traffic problem but the city has responded by building a system that brings together data from everywhere, including CCTV footage and open data sources,” he said.

“They (BTP) combine it in a way that they cannot only see what’s actually happening, but also can predict, not only for one day, but for a week, how the traffic will probably be,” he added.

What surprised him most, he said, was the extent of information available and the use of open data alongside surveillance infrastructure at the TMC. “I was surprised that they (TMC) had all the information,” he said, pointing to how live CCTV feeds are combined with third-party data inputs. The integration, Mr. Schoof noted, allows authorities to respond quickly to incidents such as accidents by dispatching traffic police to the exact location and reorganising traffic flows in real time.

On artificial intelligence (AI) and technology collaboration, Mr. Schoof said the Netherlands sees itself as strongly positioned in the AI space and keen to deepen cooperation with India. Referring to his participation in the AI Summit in New Delhi earlier in the week, he said the Netherlands aims to work closely with Indian businesses and global technology firms. Mr. Schoof described Netherlands as a “digital harbour” and a gateway to Europe. When asked what he would prioritise adopting from India, Mr. Schoof pointed to healthcare applications of AI. With the Netherlands facing an ageing population, he said healthcare costs and service pressures are rising. The AI, he suggested, could help detect diseases earlier and reduce reliance on an overstretched workforce of doctors and nurses.

The Prime Minister also referred to his interactions during the visit, particularly at the IISc, where he said he engaged with faculty members and students who briefed him on their research projects and start-up initiatives.

Journalists stage protest at Vidhana Soudha opposing recent directives issued by DPAR

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Journalists in Bengaluru staged a protest in front of the Mahatma Gandhi statue on the premises of Vidhana Soudha on February 20, opposing recent directives issued by the Department of Personnel and Administrative Reforms (DPAR) restricting media access within the State secretariat. Wearing black attire and black masks as a mark of protest, media personnel expressed objection to the circular that mandates journalists to obtain official video statements only at a designated location near the western gate of Vidhana Soudha in Bengaluru.

Instruction

The directive also instructs media representatives not to follow the Chief Minister or other Ministers inside the premises to record statements.

The DPAR stated that the restrictions have been implemented in the interest of security.

Representation

The journalists submitted a representation to K.V. Prabhakar, Media Advisor to the Chief Minister, who assured that the concerns raised would be looked into and that the contents of the circular would be reviewed. The protesting journalists argued that the new restrictions hamper routine media coverage and limit access to elected representatives.

The move was opposed by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), which has termed the decision an attempt to curb media freedom under the guise of security.

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Chennai
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Dated: 21-02-2026
Tele: 044 – 26844808/26844810

ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರ
ಟಿ. ಚೌಡಯ್ಯ ರಸ್ತೆ, ಕುಮಾರ ಪಾರ್ಕ್ ಪಶ್ಚಿಮ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು - 560 020.

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:ಬೆಂಅಪ್ರಾ/ಆ/ಉಕಾ–1/ಆ/ಸಿ.ವಿ/1260/2025–26 ದಿನಾಂಕ:20.02.2026

ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ವಿಷಯ: ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರದಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರಥಮ ದರ್ಜೆ ಸಹಾಯಕ ಹುದ್ದೆಯನ್ನು ನೇರ ನೇಮಕಾತಿಯಿಂದ ಭರ್ತಿ ಮಾಡುವ ಬಗ್ಗೆ.
ಉಲ್ಲೇಖ: 1. ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರದ ಪತ್ರ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:ಬೆಂ.ಅ.ಪ್ರಾ/ಆ/ಉಕಾ–1/ಸಿವಿ/ 740/2025–26 ದಿನಾಂಕ:25–09–2025.
2. ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಪರೀಕ್ಷಾ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರದ ಪತ್ರ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:ಇ.ಡಿ/ಕೆ.ಇ.ಎ/ ಆಡಳಿತ/ಸಿ.ಆರ್–5/2024–25 ದಿನಾಂಕ:29–01–2026.
3. ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಪರೀಕ್ಷಾ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರದ ಪತ್ರ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:ಇ.ಡಿ/ಕೆ.ಇ.ಎ/ ಆಡಳಿತ/ಸಿ.ಆರ್–5/2024–25 ದಿನಾಂಕ:28–01–2026.
4. ಮಾನ್ಯ ಆಯುಕ್ತರ ಆದೇಶ ದಿನಾಂಕ:18–02–2026.

ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರದಲ್ಲಿ ಖಾಲಿ ಇರುವ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಪ್ರದೇಶದವರಿಗೆ ಮೀಸಲಿರಿಸಿರುವ 01 ಪ್ರಥಮ ದರ್ಜೆ ಸಹಾಯಕ ಮತ್ತು 06 ದ್ವಿತೀಯ ದರ್ಜೆ ಸಹಾಯಕ ಹಾಗೂ ಮಿಕ್ಕುಳಿದ ವೃಂದದಲ್ಲಿ ಖಾಲಿ ಇರುವ 04 ಪ್ರಥಮ ದರ್ಜೆ ಸಹಾಯಕ ಮತ್ತು 14 ದ್ವಿತೀಯ ದರ್ಜೆ ಸಹಾಯಕ ಹುದ್ದೆಯನ್ನು ನೇರ ನೇಮಕಾತಿಯಿಂದ ಭರ್ತಿ ಮಾಡಲು ಉಲ್ಲೇಖ (1) ರ ಪತ್ರದನ್ವಯ ಸ್ಪರ್ಧಾತ್ಮಕ ಪರೀಕ್ಷೆ ನಡೆಸಿಕೊಡುವಂತೆ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಪರೀಕ್ಷಾ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರದವರನ್ನು ಕೋರಲಾಗಿತ್ತು.

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಪರೀಕ್ಷಾ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರದವರು ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಪ್ರದೇಶದವರಿಗೆ ಮೀಸಲಿರಿಸಿರುವ 01 ಪ್ರಥಮ ದರ್ಜೆ ಸಹಾಯಕ ಹಾಗೂ ಮಿಕ್ಕುಳಿದ ವೃಂದದಲ್ಲಿ ಖಾಲಿ ಇರುವ 04 ಪ್ರಥಮ ದರ್ಜೆ ಸಹಾಯಕ ಹುದ್ದೆಗಳಿಗೆ ಸ್ಪರ್ಧಾತ್ಮಕ ಪರೀಕ್ಷೆಗಳನ್ನು ನಡೆಸಿ ಅರ್ಹರಿರುವ ಅಭ್ಯರ್ಥಿಗಳ ಪಟ್ಟಿಯನ್ನು ಉಲ್ಲೇಖ (2) ಮತ್ತು (3) ರನ್ವಯ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರಕ್ಕೆ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಿರುತ್ತಾರೆ.

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಪರೀಕ್ಷಾ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರದವರು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಿರುವ ಪಟ್ಟಿಯನ್ವಯ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರಾಜ್ಯ ಪತ್ರ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:ಸಂವ್ಯಶಾಇ 30 ಶಾಸನ 2018, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ದಿನಾಂಕ: 04.01.2019 ರ ರಾಜ್ಯದ ಸಿವಿಲ್ ಸೇವೆಗಳ ಅಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿನ ಯಾವುದೇ ಸೇವೆಗೆ ಅಥವಾ ಹುದ್ದೆಗೆ ಅಭ್ಯರ್ಥಿಗಳ ನೇಮಕಾತಿಗಾಗಿ ಆಯ್ಕೆಯ ಕಾರ್ಯವಿಧಾನಕ್ಕೆ ಉಪಬಂಧ ಕಲ್ಪಿಸಿರುವ ಅಧಿನಿಯಮದಡಿ ಮೊದಲನೇ ಯಾದಿ, ಎರಡನೇ ಯಾದಿ ಮತ್ತು ಮೂರನೇ ಯಾದಿಯನ್ವಾಗಿ ಪಟ್ಟಿಯನ್ನು ತಯಾರಿಸಿದ್ದು, ರೋಸ್ಟರ್ ಬಿಂದುವಿನನ್ವಯ ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡ ಅಭ್ಯರ್ಥಿಗಳನ್ನು ಆಯ್ಕೆ ಮಾಡಲು ನಿಯಮಗಳ ಪ್ರಕಾರ 1:4 ರಂತೆ ತಾತ್ಕಾಲಿಕ ಮುಖ್ಯ ಆಯ್ಕೆ ಪಟ್ಟಿ ಹಾಗೂ ತಾತ್ಕಾಲಿಕ ಹೆಚ್ಚುವರಿ ಆಯ್ಕೆ ಪಟ್ಟಿಯನ್ನು ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡಂತೆ ಸಿದ್ಧಪಡಿಸಿದ್ದು, ಉಲ್ಲೇಖ (4) ರನ್ವಯ ಮಾನ್ಯ ಆಯುಕ್ತರು ಅನುಮೋದನೆಯನ್ನು ನೀಡಿದ್ದು, ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡಂತೆ ತಾತ್ಕಾಲಿಕ ಆಯ್ಕೆ ಪಟ್ಟಿಯನ್ನು ಅಭ್ಯರ್ಥಿಗಳ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ ಈ ಮೂಲಕ ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ತತ್ಸಂಬಂಧ ತಾತ್ಕಾಲಿಕ ಆಯ್ಕೆ ಪಟ್ಟಿಯ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಆಕ್ಷೇಪಣೆಗಳಿದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ ಆಯ್ಕೆ ಪಟ್ಟಿ ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸಿದ ದಿನಾಂಕದಿಂದ 15 ದಿನಗಳ ಒಳಗಾಗಿ ಆಕ್ಷೇಪಣೆಯನ್ನು ಲಿಖಿತ ಮೂಲಕ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ.

371 (ಜೆ) ರಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಪ್ರದೇಶದವರಿಗೆ ಮೀಸಲಿರಿಸಿರುವ ಪ್ರಥಮ ದರ್ಜೆ ಸಹಾಯಕರ ಮುಖ್ಯ ಆಯ್ಕೆಪಟ್ಟಿ (ತಾತ್ಕಾಲಿಕ)

ಕ್ರ.ಸಂ.	ಅಭ್ಯರ್ಥಿಯ ಹೆಸರು	ಜನ್ಮ ದಿನಾಂಕ	ಪ್ರವರ್ಗ	ಪೇಪರ್–1 ಅಂಕ	ಪೇಪರ್–2 ಅಂಕ	ಒಟ್ಟು ಅಂಕ
1	ಸುನೀಲ	01.06.1996	ಪ.ಜಾ./ ಪ್ರವರ್ಗ–ಎ	51.25	62	113.25

371 (ಜೆ) ರಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಪ್ರದೇಶದವರಿಗೆ ಮೀಸಲಿರಿಸಿರುವ ಪ್ರಥಮ ದರ್ಜೆ ಸಹಾಯಕರ ಹೆಚ್ಚುವರಿ ಆಯ್ಕೆ ಪಟ್ಟಿ (ತಾತ್ಕಾಲಿಕ)

ಕ್ರ.ಸಂ.	ಅಭ್ಯರ್ಥಿಯ ಹೆಸರು	ಜನ್ಮ ದಿನಾಂಕ	ಪ್ರವರ್ಗ	ಪೇಪರ್ –1 ಅಂಕ	ಪೇಪರ್–2 ಅಂಕ	ಒಟ್ಟು ಅಂಕ
1	ದಿನೇಶ್	16.06.2002	ಪ.ಜಾ. / ಪ್ರವರ್ಗ–ಎ	60	51.5	111.5
2	ಲೋಕೇಶ್.ಎಂ	10.02.1995	ಪ.ಜಾ. / ಪ್ರವರ್ಗ–ಎ	48.5	60.75	109.25
3	ಎನ್.ಜೆ.ನಂದೀಶ್ ಕುಮಾರ್	19.11.1996	ಪ.ಜಾ./ ಪ್ರವರ್ಗ–ಎ	53	56	109
4	ಡಿಡ್ ಗಿ ಪ್ರದೀಪ್ ಕುಮಾರ	02.06.1999	ಪ.ಜಾ. / ಪ್ರವರ್ಗ–ಎ	45.75	62	107.75

ಮಿಕ್ಕುಳಿದ ವೃಂದದವರಿಗೆ ಮೀಸಲಿರಿಸಿರುವ ಪ್ರಥಮ ದರ್ಜೆ ಸಹಾಯಕರ ಮುಖ್ಯ ಆಯ್ಕೆಪಟ್ಟಿ (ತಾತ್ಕಾಲಿಕ)

ಕ್ರ.ಸಂ	ಅಭ್ಯರ್ಥಿಯ ಹೆಸರು	ಜನ್ಮ ದಿನಾಂಕ	ಪ್ರವರ್ಗ	ಪೇಪರ್ –1 ಅಂಕ	ಪೇಪರ್–2 ಅಂಕ	ಒಟ್ಟು ಅಂಕ
1	ಸಂದೇಶ್ ರಾಜೇಂದ್ರ ಇಂಗಾಲಗೊನ್	01.07.2002	ಪ.ಜಾ. / ಪ್ರವರ್ಗ–ಎ	52.25	60	112.25
2	ನಂದೀಶ.ಟಿ.ಇ	11.03.1996	ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ	73.25	67.5	140.75
3	ಶಿವಪುತ್ರ ಪ್ರಕಾಶ್ ನಾಯ್ಕ್	17.01.2000	ಪ.ಪಂ	62.5	57.75	120.25
4	ಅಮೃತ.ಆರ್.ಚಣ್ಣಗೌದರ್	26.07.1996	ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ ಮಹಿಳಾ ಅಭ್ಯರ್ಥಿ	63	76.75	139.75

ಮಿಕ್ಕುಳಿದ ವೃಂದದವರಿಗೆ ಮೀಸಲಿರಿಸಿರುವ ಪ್ರಥಮ ದರ್ಜೆ ಸಹಾಯಕರ ಹೆಚ್ಚುವರಿ ಆಯ್ಕೆ ಪಟ್ಟಿ (ತಾತ್ಕಾಲಿಕ)

ಕ್ರ.ಸಂ	ಅಭ್ಯರ್ಥಿಯ ಹೆಸರು	ಜನ್ಮ ದಿನಾಂಕ	ಪ್ರವರ್ಗ	ಪೇಪರ್ –1 ಅಂಕ	ಪೇಪರ್–2 ಅಂಕ	ಒಟ್ಟು ಅಂಕ
1	ಭಗತ್ ಚಂದನ್.ಆರ್	13.04.2003	ಪ.ಜಾ. / ಪ್ರವರ್ಗ–ಎ	67.75	44.5	112.25
2	ನರಸಪ್ಪ ಅಲಬಾನೂರು	06.10.1992	ಪ.ಜಾ. / ಪ್ರವರ್ಗ–ಎ	48.75	62.5	111.25
3	ಚೇತನ್ ಶಾಂತಪ್ಪ ಬಗಲಿ	31.07.1994	ಪ.ಜಾ. / ಪ್ರವರ್ಗ–ಎ	52.5	53.5	106
4	ಶ್ರೀನಿವಾಸ್ ಜಿ ಹರಿಜನ್	27.07.1998	ಪ.ಜಾ. / ಪ್ರವರ್ಗ–ಎ	44.25	64	105.25
5	ಚೇತನ್ ಕೃಷ್ಣಪ್ಪ ಅಸರಡಿ	07.08.1996	ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ	70.75	68.5	139.25
6	ಮಹೇಶ್ ಇರಪ್ಪ ರಾಮದುರ್ಗ್	01.03.2002	ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ	68.25	71	139.25
7	ಸಿದ್ರಾಮ್ ವಿಜಯ್ ಸಪ್ತಸಾಗರೆ	01.06.1998	ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ	71	65.50	136.50
8	ಅಭಿಷೇಕ್.ಎಸ್.ಹಿರೇಮಠ್	30.07.1998	ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ	70.25	64.25	134.50
9	ಪ್ರದೀಪ್ ಕುಮಾರ್	17.05.1996	ಪ.ಪಂ	57	61.75	118.75
10	ಎನ್ ರಾಮಕೃಷ್ಣ	25.06.1997	ಪ.ಪಂ	57.75	54.75	112.5
11	ಚಂದು ಎಮ್	03.04.2002	ಪ.ಪಂ	60.25	52	112.25
12	ಶ್ರೀನಿವಾಸ್ ಪಿ	01.06.1998	ಪ.ಪಂ	58.75	53.25	112
13	ಪೂಜಾ ಗುಲ್ವಾರ್	05.05.1999	ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ ಮಹಿಳಾ ಅಭ್ಯರ್ಥಿ	62.25	63.75	126
14	ಸಿಂದು.ಎಂ.ಜಿ	16.04.2001	ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ ಮಹಿಳಾ ಅಭ್ಯರ್ಥಿ	51.75	70.50	122.25
15	ಕಾವ್ಯಶ್ರೀ.ಹೆಚ್.ವಿ	03.07.1997	ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ ಮಹಿಳಾ ಅಭ್ಯರ್ಥಿ	59.75	62	121.75
16	ಸ್ಫೂರ್ತಿ ಪಾಟೀಲ್	12.07.2001	ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ ಮಹಿಳಾ ಅಭ್ಯರ್ಥಿ	64.50	55.50	120

ತಾತ್ಕಾಲಿಕ ಮುಖ್ಯ ಆಯ್ಕೆ ಪಟ್ಟಿ ಹಾಗೂ ತಾತ್ಕಾಲಿಕ ಹೆಚ್ಚುವರಿ ಆಯ್ಕೆ ಪಟ್ಟಿ ಮತ್ತು ನೇಮಕಾತಿಯ ಮುಂದಿನ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆಯನ್ನು ಮಾನ್ಯ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಉಚ್ಚ ನ್ಯಾಯಾಲಯ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಇಲ್ಲಿ ಬಾಕಿಯಿರುವ ಮೇಲ್ಮನವಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:200448/2025 ರಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾನ್ಯ ನ್ಯಾಯಾಲಯವು ನೀಡುವ ಅಂತಿಮ ಆದೇಶದ ಷರತ್ತಿಗೊಳ್ಪಟ್ಟಿರುತ್ತದೆ.
(ಕ.ಟಿ.ಅ.ಮೇ) **ಸಹಿ/– ಉಪಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿ–1 (ಸಿ), ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು**

Group clash over temple issue in Haveri

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

Some people sustained injuries during a group clash near Hirekerur in Haveri district on Thursday night.

A few residents of Hireyadachi and Kyatanakere came to blows over construction of a temple.

The fight escalated and stone pelting followed, leading to around 10 persons suffering minor injuries.

The police have detained some persons.

State makes NABH or NQAS accreditation mandatory for all blood centres

Afshan Yasmeen
BENGALURU

Karnataka has around 260 blood banks, including government and private facilities. FILE PHOTO

In a move aimed at bringing uniform quality standards across all blood centres, the State Health Department has made it mandatory for all blood banks in Karnataka to obtain accreditation from the National Accreditation Board for Hospitals and Healthcare Providers (NABH) or certification under the National Quality Assurance Standards (NQAS) programme within a year.

The directive has been issued through a Government Order dated February 17, 2026, following a proposal from the Karnataka State AIDS Prevention Society (KSAPS) and consultations with NABH authorities.

The proposal stated that ensuring all blood centres in the State function in accordance with the guidelines of the National Blood Transfusion Council, the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940, the Directorate General of Health Services, New Delhi, the Karnataka State Blood Transfusion Council, and the directives of the State and Central governments is the responsibility of the Karnataka State Blood Transfusion Council. With a view to preventing transfusion-transmitted infections and strengthening the proper management of blood centres, consultations were held with the NABH authorities before the decision was finalised, officials said. State Deputy Director (Blood Safety) Shakila N. told *The Hindu* on Thursday that the move was intended to reinforce systems governing blood collection, testing and storage. “Blood banks deal with life-saving services. There are multiple processes involved- from donor screening and blood collection to testing, component separation and storage. Each of these steps must meet defined standards, with proper infrastructure, trained human resources and calibrated equipment,” she said.

Karnataka has around 260 blood banks, including government and private facilities. As per the order, all government blood banks must obtain the NQAS certification. The blood centres functioning under autonomous institutions of the government may opt for either NQAS certification or NABH accreditation. However, all private blood banks, which are not eligible under the government-run NQAS scheme, must obtain the NABH accreditation, according to the order.

All existing blood banks have been given one year to secure the prescribed accreditation. New blood banks will be required to obtain accreditation within one year from the date of receiving their licence.

Existing blood banks have been given one year to comply. Newly licensed blood banks must obtain accreditation within one year from the date of licence. Licences are renewed once every five years, with periodic inspections by district-level officers. “Monitoring private blood banks on a day-to-day basis can be challenging. This move will ensure an additional layer of quality oversight,” Dr. Shakila said.

Referring to reports from other States where lapses in testing allegedly resulted in transfusion-related infections, she said both the Central and State governments were keen to tighten safeguards.

Dr. Shakila said joint inspections by the State Drugs Control Department and the Health Department had identified procedural lapses in some blood banks in the past, and action had been initiated wherever necessary.

Timings
BENGALURU

SATURDAY, FEB. 21
RISE 06:40 SET 18:27
RISE 09:09 SET 21:56

SUNDAY, FEB. 22
RISE 06:39 SET 18:27
RISE 09:53 SET 22:53

MONDAY, FEB. 23
RISE 06:39 SET 18:27
RISE 10:40 SET 23:54

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	30	20
Mysuru	32	17
Bengaluru	31	18

Bengaluru Today
30°C The weather will be dry. Day will be slight warm. Night will be cool and hazy.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
29°C Morning will be cool with mist and haze. Day will be slight warm. Night also will be cool.

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THE HINDU
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A BG-BGE

35-year-old man arrested for tiger's death

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

The tiger that was found dead. FILE PHOTO

The Forest Department has arrested a 35-year-old man, Kumar, from Kongarahalli village in Kollegal taluk, in connection with the death of a tiger near Gundal reservoir recently.

A statement from the Assistant Conservator of Forests, Wildlife Sub-Division, Yelandur, said a case had been registered with regard to the death of the tiger on February 15. Kumar was interrogated on Thursday. He was subsequently arrested and remanded in judicial custody, the statement said. It may be mentioned here that an earlier press release by the Deputy Conservator of Forests and Director of BRT Tiger Reserve, Chamarajanagar, had identified the deceased tiger to be around five to six years old and added that preliminary observations had suggested that the tiger might have been caught in a snaretrap.

Woman found dead in Bhadravati

The Hindu Bureau
SHIVAMOGGA

A woman was found dead at Siddapura in Bhadravati on Friday, six days after her husband, Jagadish, a policeman, ended his life.

Police said that Swathi had left a note addressed to her mother. She reportedly mentioned a person's name, accusing him of harassing her. *(If you are in distress or having suicidal tendencies, please reach out to these 24/7 helplines: Tele Manas 14416 or 18008914416 or Arogya Sahayavani at 104 for help.)*

Three held for moral policing

The Hindu Bureau
SHIVAMOGGA

The Chikkamagaluru police took three people into custody on February 19 on the charge of moral policing. The accused allegedly stopped a boy and a girl, belonging to different communities, while they were returning from school on a bike, and questioned them. After receiving information about the incident, the Chikkamagaluru police registered a case, based on a complaint filed by the boy's family, and arrested the accused- Nayaz, Tabrez and Haneef.

Superintendent of Police Jitendra Kumar Dayama told the media that the district police would take action against those engaged in moral policing. "Two persons threatened the minor children . There was no assault," he said.

UTTAR PRADESH MEDICAL SUPPLIES CORPORATION LTD.
(A Government of Uttar Pradesh Undertaking)

Tender Notice

Tender Ref. No: UPMSCL/Drugs-250/30 Dated: 19/02/2026

e-TENDER FOR SUPPLY Of DRUGS

Online tenders are invited from licensed manufacturers for supply of drugs to UPMSCL. The details of tender, list of items and Tender Documents are made available on website https://etender.up.nic.in and www.upmsc.in. The last date/time of online submission of the tender documents is **28/02/2026 upto 11:00 Hrs.**

Managing Director
UPMSCL, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh

Department of Medical Health & Family Welfare, Uttar Pradesh

Your feedback will keep us Cleaner, Sharper and Bolder

Call our toll-free number
1800 102 1878
Or write to us at
customercare@thehindu.co.in

Scan the QR code to register your feedback

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Bureau of Investment Promotion, Rajasthan
Udyog Bhawan, Tilak Marg, Jaipur

BIP/CGM (F&A)/57 Date: 18.02.2026

Corrigendum

Bids for procurement of Gift Hampers for Bureau of Investment Promotion, Jaipur (a Government of Rajasthan undertaking) are invited from interested bidders upto 1:00 PM of 24.02.2026. Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portals:(**http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in**) and (**http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in**) of the state.

UBN No. BIP2526GLOB00024

Raj.Samwad/C/25/20943 Commissioner (Inv. & NRIs)

Government of Maharashtra
Forest Department, Mangrove Division-North Konkan
Abhimaan II, 5th Floor, Teen Haat Naka, Naupada, Thane (W)-400 602
Email-dfommcu@gmail.com, Parent Portal: **http://mahatenders.gov.in**

E-Tender Notice

Tender Notice No. DFO/MDNK/62-67/2025-26.

Online Tender Forms in B-1 Format, for the following work are invited by the Divisional Forest Officer, Mangrove Division- North Konkan, Abhimaan II, 5th Floor, Teen Haat Naka, Naupada, Thane (W)-400 602 from the bidders registered with the Government of Maharashtra in appropriate class of Tender Notice.

The blank tender documents should be downloaded from Government website **http://mahatenders.gov.in** from 20/02/2026 at 5.00 pm to 27/02/2026 at 5.00 pm. Blank Tender documents will not be sold by this office; interested bidders have to download tender documents from the website. For any queries in this regard the interested bidders can contact on telephone no 022-69309286 during office hours.

All requisite information required for the submission of Bid Capacity documents is available on the above said website. If any assistance is required regarding e-Tendering (uploading/downloading) please contact NIC Help Desk number: **1800 3070 2232.**

Sr. No.	Name of Work	Estimated cost	Earnest Money Deposit (Rs.)	Time limit for completion	Cost of Blank Tender Form (Non-Refundable)
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Construction of RCC Compound Wall from Ghatkoper-Mankhurd Link Road to Kurla Scrab in S.No.138. (CTS no.IP) in Vikroli (Village-Mankhurd) Beat in Vikroli Round in TCFS (Kandalwan) Range of MDNK	82,95,042/-	82,950/-	04 Months	Rs. 1180/- (Including GST)
2	Construction of RCC Compound Wall near PWD Property in S.No.236 (CTS no.194B) in Vikroli (Village-Ghatkopar) Beat in Vikroli Round in TCFS (Kandalwan -) Range of MDNK	83,32,033/-	83,320/-	04 Months	Rs. 1180/- (Including GST)
3	Construction of RCC Compound Wall near Kanjur Dumping Entry Road in S.No.275 (CTS no.657A) in Vikroli (Village-Kanjur) Beat in Vikroli Round in TCFS. (Kandalwan) Range of MDNK	83,13,953/-	83,140/-	04 Months	Rs. 1180/- (Including GST)
4	Construction of RCC Compound Wall near by Service Road Opposite to JVLR Singnal, in S.No.275 (CTS no.657A) in Vikroli. (Village-Kanjur) Beat in Vikroli Round in TCFS (Kandalwan) Range of MDNK.	83,05,258/-	83,054/-	04 Months	Rs. 1180/- (Including GST)
5	Construction of RCC Compound Wall Behind Mhada Colony in S.No.386 (CTS no.1320A) in Vikroli (Village-Mulund) Beat in Vikroli Round in TCFS (Kandalwan) Range of MDNK.	83,12,773/-	83,128/-	04 Months	Rs. 1180/- (Including GST)
6	Construction of RCC Compound Wall Kurla Scrap Nallalı in S.No.138 (CTS no.1P) in Vikroli (Village-Mankhurd) Beat in Vikroli Round in TCFS (Kandalwan) Range of MDNK.	63,84,868/-	63,849/-	04 Months	Rs. 1180/- (Including GST)

1) No changes are to be made by the contractor in the tender documents published on the website. If any changes are made the tender documents will be rejected & action accordingly will be taken against the contractor. Information published on the government website will be final.

2) Right to reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason there of is reserved.

Sd/-
Divisional Forest Officer,
Mangrove Division-North Konkan

DGIPR/2025-2026/6072

SHRI SAIBABA SANSTHAN TRUST, SHIRDI
At. Post. Shirdi, Tal- Rahata, Dist. A.Nagar - 423 109
Phone No. (02423) 258860 FAX No.258870
(Website-www.sai.org.in) E-mail-hospital.bmw@sai.org.in

E-TENDER NOTICE

E-Tenders are invited on outsource basis for Shree Saibaba Hospital, Shree Sainath Hospital and premises for the work of Mechanized Housekeeping including machinery etc. for the duration of 2026-27 (one year).

The tender deteils will be available on **https://mahatenders.gov.in** for downloading, For details and terms & conditions visit our website **www.sai.org.in.**

01. Tender Publish Date :- **21/02/2026 From 11:00 AM**
02. Pre-Bid Meeting Date & Time :- **26/02/2026 From 11:00 AM**
03. Bid submission Start Date :- **27/02/2026 From 11:00 AM**
04. Place of Pre-Bid Meeting :-
Meeting Hall, Near P.R.O. Office, Shirdi
05. Last Date for Online Submission :-
11/03/2026 Up to 05:00 PM

Goraksha Gadilkar, I.A.S
Chief Executive Officer

DGIPR/2025-2026/6051

Government of India, Ministry of Defence
Defence Research & Development Organization (DRDO)
Centre for Military Airworthiness & Certification (CEMILAC)
Marathahalli Colony, Bengaluru - 560 037

Ref / Advt : CEMILAC/5925/HRD/RF **27 Jan 2026**

Advertisement for the Selection of Junior Research Fellowship (JRF) at CEMILAC, Bengaluru

Centre for Military Airworthiness & Certification (CEMILAC), is a regulatory body under DRDO, vested with the responsibility of Airworthiness Certification of Military Aircraft, Helicopter, Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS), Aero-engines, Air launched Weapons and other Airborne Stores. Airworthiness function is implemented through the 18 Regional Centers of Military Airworthiness (RCMAs), located across India and CEMILAC acts as the corporate headquarters.

2. Applications are invited from candidates possessing below mentioned qualification: -

S.N	Type of Fellowships	Number of fellowships	Subject Discipline	Minimum Educational Qualification
1	Junior Research Fellow	01	Aeronautical Engineering	Graduate Degree in professional course (B.E/B.Tech) in relevant subject / discipline in **first division with GATE** Or Post Graduate Degree in professional course (M.E / M.Tech) in relevant subject / discipline in **first division both at Graduate & Post Graduate Level.**

3. **Upper Age Limit:** 28 years as on last date for receipt of application. The upper age limit shall be relaxable to the candidates belonging to SC, ST & OBC (NCL) category as per Government Rules in Vogue.

4. **Emolument:** Stipend of Rs. 37,000/- per month plus HRA & Medical facilities are applicable as per rules.

5. **Tenure:** The initial offer shall be for a period of 02 years, extendable up to a maximum of 04 years as per provisions of scheme of Research Fellows in DRDO.

6. Type written application in the format enclosed (available at **www.drdo.gov.in ---> careers**) along with self-attested copies of educational qualifications and experience, should reach **"The Chief Executive (Airworthiness)":**

Centre for Military Airworthiness & Certification (CEMILAC),
DRDO, Ministry of Defence,
Marathahalli Colony Post,
Bengaluru - 560 037

within 21 days from the date of publication of the advertisement in Employment News. The envelope containing application should be superscribed **"Application for JRF"** at the top left corner.

7. Candidates currently employed in Government / Public Sector Undertakings / Autonomous bodies will be required to produce NOC (No Objection Certificate) at the time of Interview.

8. Candidates will be required to produce Certificates / Testimonials in original at the time of Interview.

9. It may please be noted that offer of Fellowship does not confer on fellows any right for absorption in DRDO.

10. The candidates may be allowed to register for Ph.D with any University / Institution during the tenure of the fellowship.

11. Candidates attending the interview will be reimbursed to and fro sleeper class railway fare by the shortest route indicated in the application or the place where the journey is started whichever is less.

sd/-
Head - HRD
for Chief Executive (Airworthiness)

APPLICATION FOR RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP IN DRDO

1. Name (in Block letters) : _____
2. Father's / Husband's Name : _____
3. (a) Marital Status (Married / Single) : _____ (b) Nationality : _____
4. (a) Category (GEN/SC/ST/OBC/PH) : _____ (b) Date of Birth : _____
(c) Age as on date of application: Years_____ Months_____ Days_____
5. Address for Communication: _____
State:_____ Pin Code:_____
Contact details: Landline (with STA code)_____ Mobile No.:_____
Email Address:_____
6. Permanent Residential Address: _____
State:_____ Pin Code:_____

Paste recent photograph

7. Educational Qualification (from SSC/Matric onwards; Self-attested copies to be enclosed)

Exam passed	Subject(s)	Univsersity/Board	Year of passing	Division / Class	% Marks

8. Brief description of the Project Work carried out during Graduation / Post Graduation Level _____

9. Experience:

Name of the organization	Period of Service		Reasons for leaving
	From	To	

10. Whether Qualified in UGC/CSIR/NET/GATE Examinations: YES / NO
If yes, give details (proof to be enclosed)

11. Have you ever been interviewed in any DRDO Unit, please give details : YES / NO
(Note: Candidates already awarded JRF positions in any of the DRDO Units earlier are not eligible to apply again)

12. Any other information:

DECLARATION: I hereby declare that the above particulars furnished are correct and no information is suppressed.

Place:

Date:

(Signature of the candidate)

CBC 10301/11/0173/2526

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-1, BENGALURU
BSNL Builiding 4th Floor, Telephone House Rajbhavan Road Bengaluru - 560001

DRC No. 10363 Form No. 14 (See Regulation 33(2))

Karnataka Bank Limited, Varthur, Bengaluru- 560 087.
... Certificate Holder

Versus

M/s. Sai Paper Products **....Defendants**

DEMAND NOTICE

To

1. M/s. Sai Paper Products , Represented by its Proprietrix, Mrs. Vijayalakshmi S., W/o. Sri K. R. Venkataraju, No. 130/3, Hanumanthegowda Building, Immadihalli Post, Whitefield, Bengaluru - 560 066.

Now at : C/o. S.L.V. Enterprises, No. 14, KSIIDC Industrial Area, Pillagompa Road, Hoskote- 562 114, Propritrix R/at: No. 16, Vijayalakshmi Colony, Kadugodi, Bengaluru - 560 067. **.... Defendants**

In view of the Recovery Certificate issued in **O.A. No.1504/2015** passed by the Hon'ble Presiding Officer, DRT, Bengaluru an amount of **Rs.12,47,693/-** (Rupees Twelve Lakhs Forty Seven Thousand Six Hundred and Ninety Three Only) is due against you along with interest and costs from date of filing of O.A.s till realization of the Recovery Certificate.

You are hereby called upon to deposit the above sum within 15 days of the receipt of the notice, failing which the recovery shall be made as per rules.

In addition to the sum aforesaid you will be liable to pay :

a)Such interest as is payable for the period commencing immediately after this notice of the execution proceedings.

b)All costs, charges and expenses incurred in respect of the service of this notice and other process that may be taken for recovering the amount due.

Given under my hand and seal of the Tribunal on **09.11.2017**

Sd/- Recovery Officer
Debts Recovery Tribunal , Bengaluru

Note: Attention is invited to Rule 16 of the Second Schedule of the Income Tax Act 1961 read with Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 which is reproduced below:

"Rule 16 (1) Where a notice has been served on a defaulter under Rule 2, the defaulter or his representative in interest shall not be competent to mortgage, charge, lease or otherwise deal with any property belonging to him except with the permission of the Debt Recovery Officer, nor shall any Civil Court issue any process against such property in execution of a decree for the payment of money. (2) Where an attachment has been made under this Schedule any private transfer or delivery of the property attached or of any interest therein and any payment to the defaulter of any debt, dividend or other monies contrary to such attachment, shall be void, as against all claims enforceable under the attachment.

A-12026/2/2023-E-IV
Government of India
Ministry of Jal Shakti
Department of Water Resources,
River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation
****

VACANCY NOTICE

EXTENSION OF LAST DATE FOR SUBMISSION OF APPLICATION

The vacancy notice published in the Employment News edition dated 27 December 2025 -2 January 2026 for filling the following post in the National Dam Safety Authority (NDSA) on a deputation basis (including short-term contract) by this office is hereby revised. The last date for submission of duly filled applications, which was 09.02.2026, has been further extended by three weeks from the date of publication of this vacancy notice in the Employment News.

S. No.	Name of post (s)	No. of post (s)	Pay Matrix As per 7th CPC	Place of posting
1	Chairman, NDSA	01	Level-15 (Rs. 182200-224100/-)	HQs New Delhi

2. All other terms and conditions of the previous vacancy notice shall remain unchanged. The interested candidates who have not yet applied may submit their applications as per the procedure mentioned in the detailed vacancy notice available on the official website: **jalshaktidowr.gov.in**, **dopt.gov.in** and **ndsa.mowr.gov.in**.

(Narayanan Bhattadiri K.P.)
Under Secretary to the Govt. of India
Tele. No.: 011-23716252
Email: use4-mowr@nic.in

cbc 45101/11/0008/2526

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
Ministry of Finance, Department of Fiancial Services
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL, BANGALORE-(DRT-1)
4th Floor, Telephone House Builiding Rajbhavan Road Bengaluru - 560001

Form No. 14 (See Regulation 33(2))

DEMAND NOTICE

Notice under Sections 25 to 28 of the Recovery of Debts & Bankruptcy Act, 1993 and Rule 2 of Second Schedule to the Income Tax Act, 1961.

RC No. 141/2023 IN OA No. 282/2021

KARNATAKA BANK LIMITED V/s
ANANTHA K

In the Matter of : (CH-1) Karnataka Bank Limited, Mahalakshmi Puram Branch, No. 16, 1st Floor, 8th Main, Mahalakshmi Layout, Bengaluru - 560 086. **... Applicant Bank/ Certificate Holder**

V/s

(CD 1) Sri Anantha K S/o. Sri Keshava Murthy S.V., No. 20/2, 15th Main, J. C. Nagar, Bengaluru - 560 086.

(CD 2) Smt. S. P. Rashmi W/o. Sri K. Anantha, No. 20/2, 15th Main, J. C. Nagar, Bengaluru - 560 086.

(CD 3) Sri Ugra Murthy U., S/o. Mr. Ugra Narasimha, No. 61, 7th Cross, Jaimaruthinagar, Nandini Layout, Bengaluru - 560 096.

(CD 4) M/s. Concur Marketing Pvt Ltd., Rep by its Intreim Resolution Proffessional (IRP) Liquidator, Sri Shivdatta Bannanje, No. B-208, 6th Main Road, D. Devarajus Trust Terminal Ltd., Industrial Sub 2nd Stage, Yeshwanthpura, Benglaluru - 560 022.

IRP/Liquidator Addess: Shri Shivadata Annanje, S/o. Late B. K . Bhandary, No. 228, 1st Phase, Classic Orchards, B. G. Road, Behind Meenakshi Temple, Bannerghatta Road, BengaluruSouth, Karnataka - 560 076.

... Defendants/Certificate Debtors

This is to notify that as per the Recovery Certificate issued in pursuance of orders passed by the Presiding Officer, DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL, BANGALORE (DRT-1) in **OA/282/2021** an amount of **Rs.19882718.11**(Rupees One Crore Ninety Eight Lakhs Eighty Two Thousand Seven Hundred and Eighteen and Paise Eleven Only) has becom due againts you (jointly and severally , Fully/Limited). 2. You are hereby directed to pay the above sum within 15 days of the receipts of the notice, failing which the recovery shall be made in accordance with the Recovery of Debts and Bankruptcy Act, 1993 and Rules there under. 3.You are hereby ordered to declare on an affidavit the particulars of yours assets on or before the next date of hearing. 4. You are hereby ordered to appear before the undersigned on 26.02.2024 at 10.30 a.m. for further proceedings. 5. In addition to the sum aforesaid, you will be liable to pay: (a) Such interests as is payable for the period commencing immediately after this notice of the certificate/ execution proceedings. (b) All costs, charges and expenses incurred in respect of the service of this notice and warrants and other processess and all other proceedings taken for recovering the amount due.

Given under my hand and seal of the Tribunal on **06.01.2024**

Sd/- (Sanjiv Kumar), Recovery Officer -1
Debts Recovery Tribunal Bangalore (DRT-1)

Note: Attention is invited to Rule 16 of the Second Schedule of the Income Tax Act 1961 read with Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 which is reproduced below: "Rule 16 (1) Where a notice has been served on a defaulter under Rule 2, the defaulter or his representative in interest shall not be competent to mortgage, charge, lease or otherwise deal with any property belonging to him except with the permission of the Debt Recovery Officer, nor shall any Civil Court issue any process against such property in execution of a decree for the payment of money. (2) Where an attachment has been made under this Schedule any private transfer or delivery of the property attached or of any interest therein and any payment to the defaulter of any debt, dividend or other monies contrary to such attachment, shall be void, as against all claims enforceable under the attachment".3) You are also liable to disclose your assets both movable and immovable to this Tribunal along with the Income Tax Returns of last 5 years.

Safaris in Bandipur and Nagarhole: Minister orders enforcement of conditions

The government has decided to permit the deployment of only 50% of the safari vehicles and staff that were in use before the suspension of the operations in November 2025

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

Safaris had been suspended in Bandipur and Nagarhole since November 2025 in the wake of human-tiger conflict in the region. M.A. SRIRAM

Forest Minister Eshwar Khandre has instructed the Forest Department officials to strictly enforce the conditions stipulated for the resumption of safaris in Bandipur and Nagarhole forests.

Chairing a meeting of forest officials from Mysuru, Kodagu, and Chamarajanagar in Mysuru on Friday ahead of the scheduled resumption of safaris from Saturday, Mr. Khandre said an official order detailing the stipulated conditions will likely be issued by the government by Saturday evening.

Safaris had been suspended in Bandipur and Nagarhole since November 2025 in the wake of human-tiger conflict in the region. Mr. Khandre warned that the officials concerned will be held accountable for any violation of the conditions stipulated in the government order. The safaris should be primarily conducted using buses, while the use of campers and jeeps should be kept to a minimum. Clear orders in this regard will be issued, he added.

Officials have been directed to identify areas of human-wildlife conflict in Bandipur and Nagarahole forest regions and intensify patrolling in such zones.

"Precautions must be taken to prevent wildlife from entering human habitations and causing loss of life or damage to crops," Mr. Khandre said.

A 100 km stretch along the Bandipur forest boundary has been identified as highly sensitive, he said and added that 25 camps should be set up at every 5 km interval, with residents appointed as "forest friends" to monitor wildlife movement. He asked the forest officials to submit proposals for facilities such as thermal drones and vehicles to be submitted in writing. Alongside wildlife conservation, protecting the lives of people living on forest fringes must be the Forest Department's top priority, Mr. Khandre said. Equal emphasis should also be given to safeguarding the crops of the farmers, he added.

He said 35% of the revenue generated from safari operations should be allocated for the skill training of youth in forest-fringe villages and for supporting children's education, besides providing fodder for cattle. Emphasising the importance of support and co-operation of the local communities in forest and wildlife conservation, the Minister said forest staff must engage with locals in a cordial manner, win their confidence, and involve them in conservation efforts. Mr. Khandre also directed the regular staff of the Forest Department to mandatorily use the internally developed e-patrolling software. The outsourced staff in tiger reserves should use the e-stripe system, he said.

KRRS condemns

Karnataka Rajya Raitha Sangha president Badagalapura Nagendra lashed out at the State government for allowing safari operations in Bandipur and Nagarahole. He condemned the decision and demanded that safaris be stopped immediately. Safaris had been stopped following tiger attacks on people in Sargur and H.D. Kote areas.

IT/BT Minister Priyank Kharge meets Anthropic team in Delhi

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Minister for Electronics and IT/BT Priyank Kharge met Dario Amodei, co-founder and CEO of Anthropic, on the sidelines of India AI Summit in New Delhi on Thursday.

The discussions centred on responsible AI development, digital governance, data sovereignty, and building stronger support systems for AI startups and developers as part of Karnataka's push to strengthen its deep-tech and innovation ecosystem. Irina Ghose, India Managing Director, and Rahul Patil, CTO of Anthropic, were also part of the meeting.

Priyank Kharge

The interaction also covered Anthropic's plans for its Bengaluru office and opportunities to work closely with Karnataka's technology and start-up ecosystem. "It was encouraging to hear about Anthropic's plans for its Bengaluru office. We look forward to working closely as we build a responsible and globally competitive AI and deep-tech ecosystem together. Responsible AI, digital governance, data sovereignty, and a focused approach to skilling, incubation and innovation support for start-ups and developers were central to our discussion," Mr. Kharge said. India has emerged as the second-largest user base for Claude, a family of large language models developed by the San Francisco-based AI firm. The company's revenue run-rate in the country has reportedly doubled in the last four months.

19 kg of ganja found on Bengaluru-bound Tata-Yeshwantpur Express near Arsikere

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

A joint team of Railway Protection Force (RPF) and Government Railway Police (GRP) intercepted a major shipment of narcotics on board the Bengaluru-bound Tata-Yeshwantpur Express, and seized 19 kg of ganja from the train near Arsikere.

A statement from RPF, Mysuru division, described the drug haul as a significant breakthrough as part the ongoing nationwide 'Operation NARCOS'.

As part of a surprise intensive check targeting the illegal transport of contraband by train in Karnataka, a team of personnel from RPF and GRP came across the narcotics around 1.20 p.m. on February 14 when the weekly train was traversing the stretch between Kadur and Arsikere.

The joint team of RPF and GRP that seized ganja from the Tata-Yeshwantpur Express train near Arsikere. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

"During a coach-by-coach inspection, officers flagged a suspicious black trolley bag tucked beneath berth no. 68 in the M-1 coach. When officials questioned passengers in the vicinity, no one claimed ownership of the bag, sparking suspicion. Following established safety protocols, the team secured and opened the bag, which contained the ganja," according to the RPF.

The seized contraband weighed 19 kg and 16 gram, with an estimated street value of ₹9,50,800.

The RPF handed over the narcotics to the GRP Arsikere for further disposal. Following the seizure, a criminal case has been registered and charges have been filed under Section 20(b)(ii)B of the NDPS Act (1985).

While the owner of the bag managed to evade arrest, authorities confirmed that an investigation is under way to trace the origin of the consignment, and to identify the owner of the bag.

Shri Siddaramaiah
Hon'ble Chief Minister of Karnataka

Department of Health & Family Welfare

TOWARDS COMPREHENSIVE HUMAN RESOURCE STRENGTHENING

Appointment Order Distribution Ceremony

Shri D. K. Shivakumar
Hon'ble Dy. Chief Minister of Karnataka

— Inauguration —

Shri Siddaramaiah
Hon'ble Chief Minister, Government of Karnataka

Chief Guest
Shri D.K. Shivakumar
Hon'ble Dy. Chief Minister, Government of Karnataka

Chief Guest
Shri Dinesh Gundu Rao
Hon'ble Minister for Health & Family Welfare, Government of Karnataka

Presiding
Shri Rizwan Arshad
Hon'ble MLA, Shivajinagar Assembly Constituency

Venue
Bharat Ratna Dr. B. R. Ambedkar Bhavan, Vasanth Nagar, Bengaluru.
Date 21.02.2026 | Time 11.00 AM

1000+ Permanent Job Recruitement

- Priority appointments for 320 candidates from the Kalyana Karnataka region.
- Permanent recruitment to 650 paramedical posts across the state.
- Appointment of 77 new Drug Inspectors.

Recruitment Under Process

Post	Number of Vacancies
Primary Health Care Officers	1,205
Kalyana Karnataka Paramedical Posts	877
Staff Nurses	600
Health Inspectors	300
Pharmacy & Laboratory Technical Officers	800
MBBS & Specialist Doctors	220

Administrative Milestones

Transfer of 5,700+ staff through transparent online counselling, a first in the Dept's history.

A first-of-its-kind initiative: Out of the approved 1000 Apprenticeship programme, 226 D.Pharma candidates have been selected for training in first phase.

Obstetricians, Anaesthetists & Paediatricians have been redeployed from less work load Community Health Centres to ensure 24 hours services in all Taluk Hospitals & selected high load CHC's.

Transparent selection & posting of 1,400 newly graduated doctors to vacant MBBS positions statewide under one-year compulsory medical service with preference to Govt quota candidates.

Reasonable restriction to curb private practice of Govt Doctors to ensure priority for Govt Health Services.

Implementation of Face Recognition based attendance [KAMS] for the first time & 33000+ regular employees are already registered in the state.

Establishment of a Directorate of Recruitment & phase wise creation of a Public Health Management Cadre in pipeline.

Posting of administrative staff through transparent and objective criteria is planned.

Strong Karnataka, Strong Lives

Honourable Chief Minister Shri Siddaramaiah & Health Minister Shri Dinesh Gundu Rao participated in the department's programme

Protecting public property and renouncing violence is a fundamental constitutional duty of every Indian citizen.

Your Health, Our Priority

A BG-BGE

Hakki Pikki people from Karnataka detained in Ghana

They travel to different countries to sell hair oils and plant-based medical products

Sathish G.T.
SADASHIVAPURA
(SHIVAMOGGA DIST.)

Gundsala, an elderly woman from the Hakki Pikki tribal community, settled in Sadashivapura near Shivamogga, is worried. Her son Lakkhan and her daughters-in-law, Milli and Shirish, have been in African countries selling herbal products for the last four months. She has been informed by her neighbours that her family members are among 24 people from the village who are detained in Ghana after the local authorities took them into custody. Two people from Gopanal in the Channagiri taluk of Davangere district are also with them.

"I am here taking care of my four grandchildren, who go to school," she said. When asked about the purpose of her children's visit to foreign countries, the woman stated that when there, they would sell oil extracted from plants and also offer massage services. "Not only my children, but many people from the village have been to different countries. They travel for several months and then come back," said Gundsala. Earlier this week, acting upon a complaint from residents of Tumu in Ghana, the authorities of Sissala East Municipal took 26 people into custody on charges of selling unregistered herbal products. The individuals allegedly did not have clearance from the Food and Drugs Authority to sell their products, which they claim possess medicinal value. Punith Kumar R., State president of Hakki Pikki Budakattu Sanghatane, a forum for tribal people, told *The Hindu* that he received information about the arrests through social media accounts active in Ghana.

As many as 24 Hakki Pikki people from Sadashivapura near Shivamogga are stuck in Ghana during their visit to sell herbal products. Their family members and relatives in the village are worried. S.K. DINESH

> We were released yesterday (Thursday) but were stopped again for verification of our documents
>
> **PRABHU KISHAN**
> A native of Sadashivapura

Later, he contacted them by phone and learnt about their whereabouts. He also requested Davanagere Member of Parliament Prabha Mallikarjuna for the safe release of the tribal people. "Our people travel to distant places to sell their products. In some countries, there are strict rules regarding the sale of herbal extracts. I am told the local authorities have considered their plea and have decided to release them. However, they have refused to return the seized goods," he said.

Prabhu Kishan, a native of Sadashivapura, during his visit to Ghana, told *The Hindu* over the phone that he and another 25 people had been in the custody of local authorities. "We were released yesterday (Thursday) but were stopped again for verification of our documents," he said.

Loan

The Hakki Pikki people are settled in various places, including Davangere, Shivamogga, Mysuru, and Hassan districts. They travel to different countries to sell hair oils and plant-based medical products. They spend several months each year in these countries and return home with a decent income.

When *The Hindu* visited Sadashivapura on Friday, many residents mentioned that several of their relatives had travelled to various places. Jaikirthi, a member of the B. Beeranahalli Gram Panchayat, said that five members of his family were on foreign visits. Similarly, Lallu Bai, an elderly woman, stated that five members of her family, including her two grandchildren, went abroad 15 days ago. "I don't know which country they went to. They carried hair oil and other products to market there," she said. When asked when they would come back, the woman replied that they would return in a year. "They cannot come back soon, as they planned their foreign visits by borrowing loans from private lenders at high interest rates. They have to repay the loan and earn extra," the lady stated. Several years ago, her late husband, Balaraju, also visited Dubai and a few other countries for the same purpose.

Another woman, Mahadevi, returned to Sadashivapura three days ago after a trip to Ghana and Nigeria with her husband Giribabu. The couple had travelled to many countries. "Primarily, we sell hair oil and other extracts of medicinal plants that cure body pain. During our visits, we roam different streets to market our products, somehow manage to communicate the quality of the product and sell them," said Mahadevi, who has never gone to school.

Tension grips Belagavi village after Rayanna's statue is desecrated

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

Tension prevailed in Machche village in Belagavi district after unidentified miscreants desecrated a statue of Sangolli Rayanna in the village square.

Some youth found black ink smeared on the statue late night on Thursday. They gathered in front of the circle and raised slogans. The police arrived at the spot within minutes. A team led by Deputy Commissioner of Police Narayan Barmani started an investigation.

Police Commissioner Borase Bhushan Gulabrao also visited Machche village and interacted with a few youth.

In a statement, the Police Commissioner said investigators are looking into all angles. "Officers have collected samples of the material thrown on the statue. The city forensics team has also visited the spot. There is a CCTV just 10 metres away from the statue. Our team is checking the footage. We have registered the complaint and an investigation is in progress," he said.

Some youth found black ink smeared on the statue late night on Thursday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Traffic constable hit by goods vehicle near Hunasamaranahalli

BENGALURU: A traffic constable who was trying to enforce no entry for goods vehicles during morning peak hours in the city was injured after being hit by a vehicle on Friday.

The goods vehicles are not allowed on the International Airport Road from 7.30 a.m. to 11 a.m. Traffic constable Vikas was deployed near Hunasamaranahalli, International Airport Road. He saw a goods vehicle coming on the road, which he tried to flag down. However, the driver, in a bid to escape, did not stop the vehicle and the constable got hit. Vikas suffered minor injuries and was said to be out of danger. Later, the police arrested the driver, Barqat Khan.

Two-day cultural festival of gender and sexual diversity begins today

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The 'Ondede Rangothsava-Laingika Alpasankhyatara Utsava,' a two-day cultural festival of gender and sexual diversity through art, performance, and lived traditions, will be held at National Gallery of Modern Art (NGMA), Bengaluru, on February 21 and 22.

Organised in collaboration with the Ministry of Tourism, Indian Social Institute, Department of Kannada and Culture, Karnataka Sahithya Academy, Karnataka Nataka Academy, and Ondede.

Shared space

The Ondede Rangothsava aims to create a shared space centering voices that are often unheard, with festival foregrounds expression, dignity, and visibility through theatre, dance, poetry, music, and community-led performances. The ustava will be attended by Asha Menon, judge and chairperson of Advisory Committee, Equal Opportunity Policy for Transgenders in India; Priyanka Mary Francis, director, NGMA Bengaluru; L.N. Mukundaraj, president, Karnataka Sahitya Academy; and theatre personality Mandya Ramesh, among others.

North Western Karnataka Road Transport Corporation
Civil Engineering Department, Central Office, HUBBALLI.
No. NWKT/EE/HBL/DB(T)/ 1168/2025-26 Date: 20-02-2026

Notice Inviting Tender

Item rate tenders in **Two Cover System** are invited through **GOK KPPP Portal** as per **KTPP Standard** Tender Documents for the following works from appropriate class of Registered Class – 1 and above Civil Contractors in KPWD/CPWD/MES as per the schedule given below. Eligible contractors can participate in the tender by confirming the other details which will be published in **https://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** KPPP Portal. Any changes in Tender Notification will be published in KPPP Portal only; separate paper notification will not be issued.

Last date & Time for Submission of tender: 07.03.2026, 16.00Hrs

Name of the work	Notification No.	Amount put to tender (Rs.)	EMD (in Rs.)
Improvement works at Depot Dharwad	NWKRTC/2025-26/BD/ WORK_INDENT72	6,77,66,500/-	10,16,500/-

For further details visit **https://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** for any "HELP" regarding uploading of Tender Documents, please call on help desk: +91-8046010000, +91-8022631200, +91-8068948777 of all working hours. Bidders can contact this office for further details in all working hours or Call 0836-2332383.

DIPR/DWD/DISHA/1258/ 2025-26
Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
NWKRTC C.E. Department, Central Office Hubballi.

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521)
No. CGM(Tech)/DGM(PROC&APCC)/EE-Proc2/AEE-6/2025-26/6046-6062 Date:20.02.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through KPPP mode only)

KPTCL invites Bids **(on Percentage rate basis)** on electronic mode for the following works in a **Combined Package** against following Enquiry Number:

Enquiry number/ Name of the Work

KPTCL/2025-26/SS/WORK_INDENT3326

Combined Package for,
Work-A: Providing Additional **1x20 MVA** Power Transformer at 66/11kV **Malali** Sub-station in Holenarasipura Taluk, Hassan District.
Work-B: Replacement of **2x6.3MVA,** 66/11kV Power Transformers by **2x20MVA,** 66/11kV Power Transformers at 66/11kV **Hangarahally** Sub-station in Holenarasipura Taluk, Hassan District.
Work-C: Replacement of **2x8MVA,** 66/11kV Power Transformers by **2x20MVA,** 66/11kV Power Transformers at 66/11kV **Bychanahally** Sub-station in Arakalagudu Taluk, Hassan District.
Work-D: Providing **Additional 1x20 MVA** Power Transformer at 66/11kV **Gangur** Sub-station in Belur Taluk, Hassan District.
on **Partial Turnkey Basis,** including Supply of all Materials/ Equipments and Erection (including dismantling & Civil Works) of all Materials/Equipments, Testing and Commissioningand dismantling of the materials.

The bids will be received through KPP Portal only. The details regarding participation in the e-tendering process can be obtained by logging on to KPTCL website **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** with hyperlink "E Procurement KPTCL" or **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in on or after 21.02.2026 at 15:00 hrs Any extension of due date for Bid submission will be intimated in the Karnataka Public Procurement Portal.** Any details required in this regard can also be had from the Office of the undersigned during Office hours.

All Corrigendum/Addendums shall be noticed by the bidders before the last date of submission of the Bids.

Sd/- Chief General Manager (Tech), Corporate Office, KPTCL, 11th Floor, Indhana Bhavan, Bengaluru-560 009

Government of Karnataka
General Hospital Shikaripura, Shivamogga District.
e-mail: amoghshikaripura@gmail.com Ph: 08187-222412
No.: GHS/Development(2)/CR/02/2025-26 Date: 16.02.2026

e-Tender Notification

e-Tender is invited in two document submission system as per Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act (KTPP)1999 Rules and 2000 regarding providing services of Group – D, Non Clinical, Housekeeping personnel, Electrician, Plumber and Laundry personnel through outsource agency to General Hospital Shikaripura, Shivamogga District for the year 2026-27 and interested Tenderers are requested to participate.

Sl. No. 1. Tender Notification No.: GHS/Development(2)/CR/02/2025-26 Date: 16.02.2026 **Details of Tender:** Regarding providing services of Group – D, Non Clinical, Housekeeping personnel, Electrician, Plumber and Laundry personnel through outsource agency to General Hospital Shikaripura, Shivamogga District for the year 2026-27. **Period given for submission of Tender:** From 18.02.2026 to 08.03.2026 up to 5.00 PM **Approx. Amount of Tender:** Rs. 1.45 crore **E.M.D. Details:** E.M.D. Amount of Rs. 2,18,000/- to be submitted in e-procurement

For further details contact Administrative Medical Officer, General Hospital Shikaripura, Shivamogga District during office hours or obtain from website http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in

Sd/- Administrative Medical Officer, General Hospital, Shikaripura, Shivamogga District.

DIPR/smg/ksmca/25-26/102/02/1868

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, DEPARTMENT OF SPACE
MASTER CONTROL FACILITY
CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE DIVISION
PB #66, Hassan – 573201, India, Telephone: 08172 – 273520

BRIEF NOTICE INVITING TENDER

On behalf of the President of India, online item-rate tenders are invited through e-Tendering mode for the following work:

Name of Work	**Replacement of Firefighting pipelines in campus 1, MCF Hassan.**
NIT No.	**MCF/CMD/H/eTN-34/2025-26/ 2-1033 Dated: 19.02.2026.**
Estimated Cost	**Rs. 1,91,86,909/-**
EMD	**Rs. 3,83,738/-**
Period during which the tender document can be downloaded	**From 19.02.2026, 10:00 Hrs. To 10.03.2026, 17:30 Hrs.**
Last date & time of receipt of tender	**16.03.2026, 17:30 Hrs.**
Due date and time of opening of tenders	**On 17.03.2026, 11:30 Hrs. onwards (Technical Bid)**

For eligibility criteria and other details, interested tenderers may please refer to the detailed bilingual (Hindi-English) Notice Inviting Tender (NIT) on the websites **https://www.isro.gov.in/Tenders.html** and tender freeview at **https://www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO.** Tenderers may please participate in the tender through **https://www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO.** All corrigendums, addendums, clarifications etc. will be uploaded in the tenderwizard portal only and will not be published in newspapers. Bidder may regularly visit the above websites for any updates.

Sd/- Head, CMD

MINOR IRRIGATION & GROUND WATER DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE EXCUTIVE ENGINEER, MINOR IRRIGATION & G.W.D.DIVISION, TUMKUR
Ref No. 22/2025-26 KW-3 (TWO COVER SYSTEM) KPP Portal DT.17-02-2026

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION Dated: 17-02-2026

On behalf of the Hon'ble Governor of State of Karnataka, as per K.T.P.P act with latest amendments, Item wise "KPPP" Portal tenders are invited for the works mentioned under H/A: 4702- works from the eligible contractors of suitable category registered under KPWD. Tender publishing details are as given below.

1. Tender will be published through KPP Portal on: **Dated: 17-02-2026 at 16.00 Hours.**
2. Last date of queries on **Dated: 21-02-2026 at 11.30 Hours.**
3. Last date for Receipt of completed tenders through KPP portal may be uploaded before **17.00 Hours on Dated: 24-02-2026.**
4. Technical Bid will be opened on **Dated: 25-02-2026 at 17.05 Hours.**
5. Financial Bid will be opened on **Dated: 26-02-2026 at 17.10 Hours.**

For further details, visit Kpp portal website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/** or from the office undersigned, on working days. If the office happens to be closed on dates above as specified, the next working day at the same time and venue will be considered.

Sd/- Executive Engineer
M.I. & G.W.D Division, Tumkur

DIPR/TUM/RO-277/25-26/Oysters

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
Zilla Panchayath, Ballari.
Office of Executive Engineer, Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Division, Ballari.
No.: EE/RDWS&SD/B/AE/CMID /Tender.Nofi/2025-26/1684 Dated:19.02.2026

E-tender Notification (KTTP Act 2000)

On behalf of the Governor of Karnataka, Executive Engineer, Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Division, Ballari hereby calls the e-tender for execution works under CMIDP Head Ballari District Kampli Taluk "**Construction of an Overhead Tank (OHT) in Korlagundi village OF Ward No. 1 and Ward No. 6, in Shridharagadde, in Jalibenchi, in Shriramarangapura and in Yerangalli villages. (Indent No: RWSSD/2025 26/WS/WORK_INDENT9832/CALL-2)"** work of Public Procurement Portal for bidders who are registered by Public work department. The information regarding tenders will be made available in **(https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/)** website & Tender document download date **20.02.2026** The last date to receive the tender from eligible bidders is at 04.00 pm on **27.02.2026** Date of opening of Technical Bid is at 05.00 pm on **02.03.2026** and Pre-bid meeting is held at Office of the Superintending Engineer, Rural Drinking water & Sanitation Circle Office, Ballari, at 11.30 am on **23.02.2026** For any tender related quarries or more information bidders can contact above said office or e-procurement help desk up to **23.02.2026** at 4.00 pm.

Sd/-Executive Engineer, RDW&S Division. Ballari
DIPR/Ballari/1034/KSMCA/2025-26

K-RIDE
RAIL INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT COMPANY (KARNATAKA) LIMITED
(A Joint Venture of Govt. of Karnataka & Ministry of Railways)
For
BENGALURU INTEGRATED RAIL INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT ENTERPRISE LIMITED (Bi – RIDE)
a SPV by K-RIDE
BENGALURU SUBURBAN TRANSPORT PROJECT (BSTP)
Website: **www.kride.in** | Email ID: **gmprocurement@kride.in**

e-TENDER NOTICE 20.02.2026

Tender Notice No.: Bi-RIDE/BSTP/CORRIDOR-DL/ KPTCL EHV/US/2026
CPP Tender ID: 2026_KRIDE_267958_1
"Conversion of 66KV EHT Power Line Crossing to UG Copper Cable and Increasing the height of Existing 66/220 KV EHT Power Line Crossing at Various Locations of BSTP and Doubling Project".
Last date for submission of above bid is **23.03.2026 IST 15:00 Hrs.**

Tender Notice No.: Bi-RIDE/BSTP/OHE-PSI Modifications/2026
CPP Tender ID: 2026_KRIDE_268110_1
"Design, Supply, Erection, Testing & Commissioning for the Shifting/modification of 8 Nos of Switching Stations along with SCADA (comprising of 6 Nos. of Sub Sectioning & Paralleling Posts and 2 Nos. of Sectioning & Paralleling Posts) which are infringing the alignment of BSTP and modification work in connection with the removal of IR OHE infringements, over proposed BSTP alignment of Corridor-2 & Corridor-4"
Last date for submission of above bid is **24.03.2026 IST 15:00 Hrs,**
for details visit. https://etenders.gov.in/eprocure/app

Sd/- **GENERAL MANAGER /Procurement/Bi-RIDE**
DIPR/CP/5781/Zen/2025-26

KridePrm KRIDE kride_bsrp KRIDE,BSRP

BANGALORE CENTRAL CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Engineer (MPED & Transport), Ground Floor, Annexure-2 Building, NR Square, Bengaluru-560 002.
Email Id: eemped.bbmp@gmail.com
No: EE(MPED&Transport)/TEND/05/2025-26 Date: 19.02.2026

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER
(Through GOK KPPP Only) (Two Cover System)

The Executive Engineer (MPED&Transport) on behalf of the Commissioner, Bengaluru Central City Corporation (BCCC), invites Proposals (Technical and Financial) for appointing eligible reputed Service Providers for the services as given below.

Sl. No.	Name of the Project/Amount put to Tender (Rs. In Lakhs) /EMD amount in Rs.
1	Providing Security Services to GBA Head office Zone-2 Bengaluru Central City Corporation building at Hudson Circle For Three Years. Amount put to Tender **Rs. 420.43 Lakhs**, EMD **Rs.6,31,000/-.**
2	Providing Security Services to Town Hall, and Chief Auditor office Majestic BCCC Zone-2 office For Three Years. Amount put to Tender **Rs. 155.88 Lakhs**, EMD **Rs.2,34,000/-.**
3	Providing Housekeeping Services to GBA Head office Zone-2 Bengaluru Central City Corporation building at Hudson Circle For Three Years. Amount put to Tender **Rs. 482.62 Lakhs**, EMD **Rs.7,24,000/-.**
4	Providing Housekeeping Services to Town Hall, and Chief Auditor office Majestic BCCC Zone-2 office For Three Years. Amount put to Tender **Rs.179.00 Lakhs**, EMD **Rs.2,69,000/-.**

Calendar of Events :
(1) Availability of IFT/RFP Document in KPP portal: **20.02.2026 onwards.(2)** Last date for receipt of queries is **22.02.2026 up to 15:00 Hrs** in the through KPP Portal. **(3)** Date of Pre bid meeting at War Room, Annex building-3, 6th floor, GBA HO Premises : **23.02.2026@ 15:30 (4)** Last Date for submission of Proposals: **27.02.2026 up to 16.30 hours. (5)** Date of Opening of Technical Proposals: **02.03.2026 after 11.00 hours. (6)** Opening of Financial Proposal will be **intimated to the Tenderers through mail/Phone.**

Sd/- Executive Engineer (MPED & Transport), BCCC

PROPERTYPLUS
HOMES AND REAL ESTATE NEWS

thehindu.com/features/homes-and-gardens
THE HINDU

COVER

View from the Yves Saint Laurent bed

How Minotti, the Italian furniture designer, is at home in Bengaluru, with tributes to a legendary French designer and Brazilian modernism

Anisha Menezes

What really connects Indian homes with Italian ones? While India and Italy share a long and storied history of craftsmanship in handmade sculpture and furniture, Indians today import Italian furniture for its impeccable detail, material honesty, measured maximalism and an astute design language.

Susanna Minotti is an architect, head of interior design, Minotti S.p.A, and third generation of the Minotti family, from Meda, Italy. She was in Bengaluru last week (February 11) to celebrate the first anniversary of the brand's flagship store in the city, in collaboration with Amber Home Interiors, headed by Bhashar and Sneha Sarda. For her, the two countries are rooted in family. "It's not the aesthetic, but what the home represents, the warmth and comfort of family. And food, that's very important to both Indians and Italians," Susanna tells me.

For three generations, since Alberto Minotti founded the studio in 1948, Minotti has been crafting luxurious furniture, with 80 experience centres across the globe. "These are not showrooms, and we are not selling furniture. We are offering a dream and an experience," observes Alessandro Minotti, general manager, Minotti S.p.A, and third-generation Minotti, present at the anniversary.

Alessandro Minotti

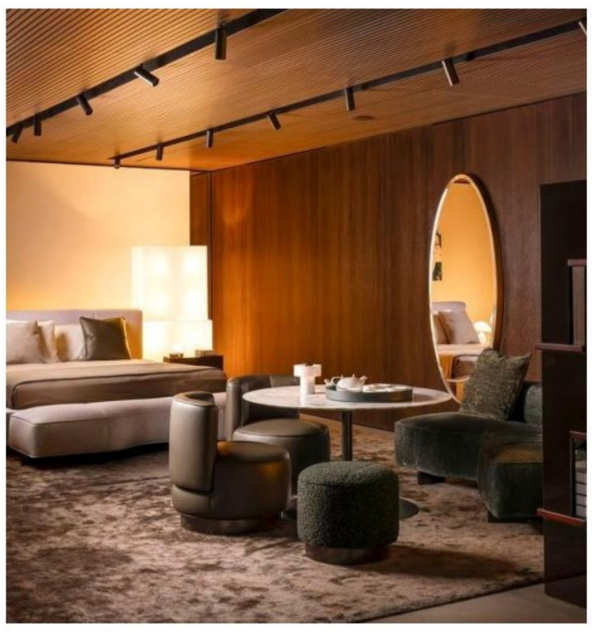
Embracing pastels, Brazilian curves

Choosing colours and designing for India has been a unique experience.

While Indian maximalism is making a comeback in interior spaces, choosing to stick with the Italian penchant for pastels has proven to be an unusual but winning choice.

Spread over three levels, the space in HSR Layout was conceived by Minotti Studio over video calls. Each floor at the Minotti experience centre is carefully calibrated. Each piece can be customised, from material to contrast detailing. The Yves bedroom suite is particularly impressive. "Designed by Milan-based Hannes Peer, this is an homage to Yves Saint Laurent, so the seams on the headboard, and bench bear a resemblance to a collection by the couture designer," explains Alessandro.

From a sartorial statement to a more organic one, the Bézier seating system designed by Brazilian designer Marcio Kogan (founder, Studio MK27) is a true romance of mathematics and art. It is inspired by the legacy of Pierre Bézier, whose parametric curve (used in CAD software) celebrates the fluidity of organic shapes. The collection pays tribute to Brazilian modernism with all its elements embracing curves that fit into each other seamlessly, from the sofas to the low coffee tables that resemble smooth pebbles. The Nico table, on this level, in green textured marble, rests on a unique interlocking base, in marble or wood, holding up the round, oval, rectangular or hexagonal top with soft edges. The second floor, with its generous skylights and ivory ceiling, illuminates the living and dining spaces it showcases.



Inside the Bengaluru store

Here, it's the 1970s-inspired Super Moon collection, designed by Giampiero Tagliaferri, with its soft contours, luscious upholstery and an air of playfulness, that steals the show. The shape of the armrests, seat cushions and marble tops evoke a lunar leitmotif, as the upholstered base rests on a floating metal frame.

Lego solutions

The terrace comes alive with the outdoor collection where Minotti imagines the garden in tropical splendour. The Quadrado collection, by Marcio Kogan, is inspired by the duckboard used in the yachting industry, with suspended square platforms, and any number of combinations made possible with an interlocking effect.

Susanna Minotti

"A lot of our furniture can be thought of as Legos, where you can keep adding elements to create new arrangements," states Susanna.

For the Minotti family, while their business has expanded impressively across the globe, their team of around 300 in Meda, Italy, still mostly deals with local vendors, for their leather, stone and ashwood components. They are, however, curious about materials from overseas. "We are open to looking at new materials like teak for outdoors, that can be best sourced in Asia. We also see the size of homes changing – some Indian living rooms can accommodate our large sectionals while some choose the smaller seats. For us, the most important design factor is versatility," concludes Susanna, as the family prepares for their showcase at the Salone del Mobile in Milan in April.

Centrepieces start at ₹4 lakh, armchairs from ₹5 lakh, seating systems are upwards of ₹18 lakh.

The freelance writer is based in Chennai.

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THE HINDU
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BG-BGE

Assembly bypolls: Intense lobbying for Cong. ticket in Davangere South, Bagalkot

Muslim community leaders of the Congress are working hard to get the ticket from Davangere South, while there is competition among Meti's children in Bagalkot

Nagesh Prabhu
BENGALURU

Even though the Election Commission has not yet officially announced bypolls to two Karnataka Legislative Assembly seats that are lying vacant, intense lobbying has begun within the ruling Congress for ticket in the Davangere South and Bagalkot constituencies.

The byelections are necessitated following the death of veteran Congress leaders Shamanur Shivashankarappa and H.Y. Meti, who represented Davangere South and Bagalkot respectively.

In Davangere South, members of Shivashankarappa's family, along with several Muslim leaders, are vying for the Congress ticket. In Bagalkot, Meti's children have emerged as the frontrunners.

According to party sources, Shivashankarappa's family is keen to field one of its members to retain its influence in the constituency. Minister for Mines and Geology S.S. Mallikarjun, Shivashankarappa's son, is reportedly lobbying for the ticket either for his son, Samarth, or his brother, S.S. Ganesh.

Shamanur Shivashankarappa

H.Y. Meti

Shivashankarappa, who passed away on December 14, 2025, had represented the constituency multiple times. Meanwhile, Prabha Mallikarjun, wife of S.S. Mallikarjun, currently serves as the Congress MP for Davangere.

The Muslim community accounts for nearly 30% of the electorate in Davangere South, making it a significant vote bank.

Housing Minister B.Z. Zameer Ahmed is said to be pushing for a candidate from the minority community and is backing Congress MLC Abdul Jabbar. KPCC vice-president A.R.M. Hussain is also an aspirant for the ticket.

Following Congress leader Yasir Ahmed Khan's victory over BJP nominee Bharath Bommai in the Shiggaon byelection in November 2024, minority leaders within the party have intensified their demand for tickets in constituencies with a sizeable Muslim population, party sources said.

Some Congress leaders, including Channagiri MLA Basavaraju V. Shivaganga, are also reportedly supporting the idea of fielding a candidate from the Muslim community in Davangere South.

Bagalkot

In Bagalkot, competition has emerged within Meti's family over the party ticket. His sons, Mallikarjun and Umesh, are considered leading contenders, while his daughters, Bayakka Meti, a former Zilla Panchayat member, and Mahadevi Meti, are also aspiring to contest.

Most local Congress workers are said to be favouring the idea of fielding one of Meti's sons as the party's candidate.

During recent visits by Congress ministers to the constituency, party workers reportedly expressed their support for fielding one of his sons.

However, there are indications of internal differences emerging within the family regarding the candidature. Sources, however, maintain that the family is likely to back whichever candidate is ultimately chosen by the party high command.

HC declines to quash cyber fraud case against accused in loan scam

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka has declined to quash criminal proceedings against four persons, who were among the several accused persons involved in a cyber fraud case of allegedly cheating a businessman of ₹7.15 crore by promising him to get a ₹225 crore loan from State Bank of India (SBI), and opening a fake account in his name by using counterfeit website in the name of SBI Corporate Finance (sbicf.co.in).

The court has termed the criminal case as "akin to a crime thriller or a crime potboiler" on noticing how the accused persons had created a counterfeit website in the name of SBIFC, generated fake emails and One Time Passwords (OTP) to make the complainant believe that the offer of loan is from 'SBI's corporate finance branch".

Justice M. Nagaprasanna passed the order while dismissing the petition filed by K. Balajee, a resident of Dindigul in Tamil Nadu; S. Jeevan Sebaratnam, who is of Sri Lankan origin, having German citizenship, and having residences both in the United Kingdom and Bengaluru; Vinay Kumar Agarwal, a city-based businessman, and Simia Fathia, a resident of Chennai in Tamil Nadu.

The Bengaluru city police registered the case in 2022 on the complaint lodged by Vinayak Kabadi, a businessman from Betageri in Gadag district.

The court noted that the prime accused, Muzib Abdul Mian alias Niyaz, also from Tamil Nadu, was involved in cheating other businessmen in Hyderabad and Mumbai in a similar way by creating fake websites of banks, and criminal cases have been registered earlier against him in those cities.

The accused had made the complainant, who was looking for loan to set up a sugar factory, to believe that they would get the loan required for him from SBIFC, and demanded a commission of 7% on the sanctioned loan amount. They had arranged meetings at five start hotels in Bengaluru and Chennai during 2017 where some of the accused impersonated as officials of the bank.

The chargesheet alleges that the counterfeit website was created to mislead the complainant, and emails and OTP alerts were allegedly generated to show that ₹225.49 crore had been credited to his purported account created using the counterfeit website. Believing them, the complainant paid ₹7.15 crore as 50% of the agreed commission, through bank transfers and cash instalments in early 2018.

However, when the complainant could not withdraw ₹225 crore from the account, the accused convinced him that it was due to a technical snag. The fraud came to light when the complainant's repeated attempts to withdraw funds failed, he discovered that the website was inactive, and later some accused became incommunicado during 2020.

Refusing to accept the claim of the accused that it was a civil dispute over payment between them and the complaint, the court said that "the allegations of creation of fake websites, impersonation of bank officials, fabrication of electronic communications cannot not treated as civil disputes".

'Regulatory changes reduced billing of CT, MRI scans under PPP'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Health Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao on Friday said the introduction of a regulatory mechanism in government hospitals had led to a significant reduction in the number of CT and MRI scans being billed under public-private-partnership (PPP), resulting in substantial savings to the exchequer.

His remarks come in the wake of a private firm – Krsnaa Diagnostics Ltd. – halting CT services in 13 district hospitals and MRI services in five district hospitals that are under a PPP model since 2017. Citing non-payment of dues, the company stopped services from February 18. The disruption triggered protests in some districts and drew criticism from the Opposition.

Addressing a press conference on Friday, Mr. Rao said that until recently, there was no structured monitoring system governing diagnostic scans carried out under the PPP arrangement with the company.

"Earlier, there was no proper mechanism. Whatever the company claimed was largely accepted. Once we brought in a system and clear rules, the volume of scans came down considerably," he said.

The Minister said in the last one-and-a-half years alone, the government had saved over ₹200 crore on MRI and CT scan expenditure after streamlining approvals and shifting to a regulated model. "When we introduced checks and verification, the number of scans was reduced. That itself shows there was overuse earlier," he said.

The dispute over pending dues dates back to 2019. The company had sought around ₹143 crore and demanded a 5% annual escalation every year from 2019 onwards. "We have clearly told them that we cannot release payments without proper verification. We have found that multiple scans were billed when one scan was required. We will pay what is legitimately due, but not amounts that are not justified," he said, adding that confirmation of earlier scans had been made mandatory before clearing bills.

Mr. Rao said the disruption had affected services in 13 hospitals, but alternative arrangements had been made in most of them and would be completed in the remaining hospitals shortly.

Responding to criticism, the Minister said the issue was being projected as a financial crisis. "Some are saying the department is paralysed and the government has no funds. That is not true. Even if there is a delay in receiving National Health Mission funds from the Centre, we are continuing to fund all schemes," he said.

Panchayats in Kolar get national attention for climate responsiveness

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A grassroots effort to address deepening climate stress in Karnataka's Kolar district received national attention this week at Mumbai Climate Week 2026, as local leaders shared how coordinated panchayat action had helped villages in responding to falling groundwater levels, ecological degradation and agricultural distress.

Participating in a session titled 'Panchayats Leading India's Climate Charge,' Suryanarayana Rao, a gram panchayat member from Huladenahalli (Tekal Hobli) of Malur taluk, in Kolar district, joined representatives from Maharashtra, Kerala, Bihar, Jharkhand, and Odisha to showcase how village institutions are shaping locally grounded climate solutions.

The panel provided a overview of the Conference of Panchayats initiative led by Asar Social Impact Advisors and Policy & Development Advisory Group. It shed light on the importance of strengthening local leadership in climate action, according to a release from these two organisations.

Mr. Rao described how climate pressures in Kolar became impossible to ignore as groundwater levels plunged dramatically over the last two decades. "Kolar depends entirely on rainfall, and our wells have been sinking deeper every year. Farmers are drilling up to 2,000 ft. for water. Soil health has deteriorated, biodiversity has declined, and repeated droughts have made agriculture increasingly uncertain," he said.

The gathering adopted 13 major resolutions focused on increasing forest cover, conserving water sources, promoting organic farming to restore soil health, protecting biodiversity and strengthening agriculture-based livelihoods.

Gram panchayats achieve 71.39% tax collection; Karnataka tops country in revenue mobilisation

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Gram panchayats in Karnataka have achieved 71.39% tax collection for the financial year 2025-26 as of February 18 and with this, the State has recorded the highest tax collection in the country in 2024-25, according to the Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department.

In a statement, Rural Development and Panchayat Raj and IT/BT Minister Priyank Kharge said the steady rise in demand and recovery over the past five years had placed Karnataka at the top in terms of tax mobilisation by gram panchayats. "Over the last five years, the tax demand has doubled and the collection amount has also increased significantly. In 2024-25, Karnataka recorded the highest tax collection in the country," Mr. Kharge said.

Priyank Kharge

Tax arrears recovery

He pointed out that the balance for the current financial year would be recovered by the end of March 2026. Tax arrears from previous years stood at ₹3,352.4 crore, and recovery was under way after segregating dues based on property classification, he said.

Chief Executive Officers of all Zilla Panchayats have been directed to conduct focused tax collection drives. Awareness campaigns are being carried out through information, education and communication activities and social media platforms apart from print media.

Special drives

In Vijayanagar district, a special drive across 137 gram panchayats resulted in the collection of ₹3.07 crore. In Yadgir district, a one-day property tax campaign across 122 gram panchayats collected ₹3.12 crore, the Minister said.

To facilitate payments, property owners can pay taxes through PhonePe, Google Pay and at Bapuji Seva Kendras. Details of payable property tax are available on the Panchamitra software platform.

Mr. Kharge said gram panchayats were providing civic amenities such as drinking water, streetlights, roads and drainage even in areas where land conversion had not been formally undertaken, placing a financial burden on local bodies. The amendments to Section 199 of the Karnataka Gram Swaraj and Panchayat Raj Act, 1993- introducing Sections 199B and 199C- were notified on April 7, 2025.

The Karnataka Gram Swaraj and Panchayat Raj (Gram Panchayat Taxes, Rates and Fees) Rules, 2025 came into effect on October 17, 2025, with the objective of strengthening the own-source revenue of gram panchayats.

The Minister said certain technical issues following modifications to the e-Swathu 2.0 software were being addressed. Increased tax mobilisation would enhance the financial capacity of gram panchayats and support the creation of basic infrastructure in rural areas, he added.

KARNATAKA INDUSTRIAL AREAS DEVELOPMENT BOARD
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
No.2, 2/1 and 2/3, Kalidasa Marg, 1st Main Road, Gandhinagar
Bengaluru 560 009. **Phone No.:** 080-22265383, **website:** www.kiadb.in,

No. IADB/ENGG/ETND-EP-86/2054/2025-26 Date: 20.02.2026

SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING TENDER
(Through GoK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Only)

Item rate Tenders under two cover system are invited as per the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 1999 and Rules 2000 through electronic procurement from eligible traders / manufacturers registered in state & central commercial tax department and Commerce & Industries department who have got adequate financial resources, sufficient past experience for supplying following goods as per the schedule given below:

Name of the Work: Providing and Supplying of furniture's for KIADB Head Office new building, Gandhinagar, Bengaluru.

Last Date for submission of bids is **04.03.2026 upto 4.00 PM.**

Applicants May Download Bidding Documents from the Karnataka Public Procurement Portal https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in

Sd/-
Chief Engineer-1, KIADB, Bengaluru.

DIPR/CP/5794/SA/2025-26

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU
TAMBARAM CITY MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
CORRIGENDUM TENDER NOTICE

ROC No.795/2024/E1 Date : 20.02.2026

The Tender Notice Published on **06.03.2026** for the work of Underground Sewerage System for T1 and T4 areas in Tambaram Corporation is postponed without specifying the date due to administrative reasons. It is informed that the next date will be announced later.

Commissioner, Tambaram City Municipal Corporation

DIPR/1288/Tender/2026

Govt. of Karnataka
Office of the Executive Engineer,
Panchayath Raj Engineering Division, Vijayapur
Tel.No:08352-277816, Fax.No:08352-277817,
E-Mail:zpebjp9@yahoo.co.in
ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:ಕಾಇಂ/ಪಂ.ರಾ.ಇ.ವಿ/ವಿಜ/ಇಪ್ರಾ/ಟೆಂಡರ್/2025–26/3726 ದಿನಾಂಕ:18.02.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION (Two Cover System)

Executive Engineer, PRE Division, Vijayapura has invited e-tender for the works under the CMIDP Grant scheme forthe year 2025-26 Work Indent No. RDPR/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT23827, 24493, 24495, 24502, 23825, 24658, 24659, 24661, 24660, 24654 & 23801) **for General Bidders,** RDPR/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT 24498, 24501 & 23800) for SC Bidders, RDPR/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT23799) for ST Bidders, RDPR/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT24663 for Cat-1 Bidders, RDPR/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT24657 for CAT-II(A) Bidders, Rs. 20.00 Lakhs to Rs.100.00 Lakhs Total 17 work vide Tender Publication No.3726 Date: 18.02.2026. Last Date for submission of Tender is 03.03.2026 time 5.30 PM.

For more information about the tender, the information can be collected at the website www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in or visit the office of the said Division during office hours.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
P.R.E. Division, Vijayapur

ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ವಿಜಯಪುರ/726/ಕೆಎಸ್ಎಂಸಿಎ/2025–26

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PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, VANDANA D/O JC340739F SubMaj Santosh Kumar (serving at ADMC Bangalore PIN-900493 c/o 56APO) hereby declare that Vandana and Kumari Vandana both names belongs to me only. Henceforth I shall be known and called as Vandana only for my all legal and personal purposes vide affidavit dt 17 Feb 2026 sworn to before Advocate and Notary YR Chandrasekar, Bangalore-560032

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF THE III ADDITIONAL CITY CIVIL AND SESSIONS JUDGE AT BANGALORE
P & SC No. 44 of 2026 (CCH 25)
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF LATE MRS. ELIZABETH JACOB SANDVIK, DAUGHTER OF MR. A V JACOB

BETWEEN: 1. Mr. YOHANN JACOB SANDVIK, aged about 30 years, Son of Mr. Kjetil Sandvik and Late Mrs. Elizabeth Jacob Sandvik, Now residing at: Plogveien 17, H0302, 0679 Oslo, Norway Passport no.: 32040790. PAN Card No.: SNZPS9475M Represented by his GPA Holder Petitioner No.2

2. Ms. YVA JACOB SANDVIK, aged about 29 years, Daughter of Mr. Kjetil Sandvik and Late Mrs. Elizabeth Jacob Sandvik, Now residing at: Lille Froens vei 16, H0201, 0371 Oslo, Norway Passport no.: CCF427659, PAN Card No.: SNZPS9477K ...**PETITIONERS**

AND: NIL .... RESPONDENT

PUBLIC NOTICE

The above-mentioned Petitioners have filed this Petition in accordance with the provisions of the Indian Succession Act, 1925 seeking a grant of a Letters of Administration in respect of the estate left behind by the deceased, Mrs. Elizabeth Jacob Sandvik.

Notice is issued herein to the General Public that in case anybody has any objection to the Grant of Letter of Administration they may file objections to the same on or before **16-03-2026** failing which the Petition shall be decided in accordance with law.

SCHEDULE "A" PROPERTIES
IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES

Item No. 1: All that piece and parcel of the residential duplex flat bearing No. B-1701/1801, NCC Nagarjuna Aster Park, Major Sandeep Unnikrishnan Road, Near Mother All that piece and parcel of the residential duplex flat bearing No. B-1701/1801. Dairy, Yelahanka New Town, Bengaluru-560065 measuring super built up area of 2756 sqft being bounded on the: East by: Flat No. A-1702, West by: Flat No. B-1702, North by: Driveway, South by: Flat No. B-1704

Item No. 2: All that piece and parcel of vacant land at Smilee Orchards, bearing Site No. 16 and 17 both formed in survey No. 107, Opposite Electronics City, Off Hosur Road, Near Huskur/Bengaluru Fruit Market, off Singena Agrahara Road, Gulimangala Village, Bengaluru, Karnataka measuring 18.51 guntas being bounded on the: East by: Mini Plantation Nos. 25 and 26, West by: Mini Plantation Road, North by: Mini Plantation No. 15, South by: Mini Plantation Nos. 18

MOVABLE PROPERTIES

Item No. 3: All that movable assets and properties of the deceased, consisting of:

a) Cash in hand, household goods, jewellery, personal effects as available at the time of death;
b) Cash at Bank maintained with IndusInd Bank Ltd., MG Road Branch, Bengaluru-560001, bearing Account No.: 100023458504
c) Mutual Fund Investments held through Axis Bank, M.G. Road Branch, Bengaluru-560001;
d) Equity Shares and Securities held through Depository Participant, IIFL. Capital Services Ltd., No. 80, Hulkul Ascent 2nd Cross, Lavelle Road, Shantala Nagar, Ashok Nagar, Bengaluru 560001, together with all bonuses, accretions, dividends and corporate benefits attached thereto; together with all interest, accretions and benefits arising therefrom.

Given under my hand and seal of the court on 12-02-2026

By order of the court, Senior Sheristedar, City Civil Court, Bangalore.

LAKSHMI MENON
LAW CHAMBERS OF
LAKSHMI MENON, Advocates
No. 33, 1st Floor, Crescent Road, High Grounds, Bengaluru- 560001.

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF THE 3RD ADDITIONAL DISTRICT JUDGE, TIRUNELVELI
MACOP.NO.87/2025

Shanmugalakshmi & 2 others ...Petitioners
Vs
T.S.Vikram, S/o.Srinivas Iyengar, No.35/1, 8th Main Road, Chikkanna Compound, Vishwanth Nagenahalli, Bangalore-560032. ...1st Respondent

NOTICE

Please take notice that the 1st petitioner in the above case has filed claim application on account of death of her son in a vehicular accident held on 15-12-2024 at Tuticorin-Madurai NH Road, Near Sindalakkarai Vektkali amman Kovil Junction. The above case is posted on 09-03-2026 for appearance of the 1st respondent before this Hon'ble Court on 10.00 A.M. failing which the court will decide the 1st respondent as "Called Exparte" in this case.

-As per Court Order-
By Advocate
A.SELVARAJ, B.Sc., B.L.,
Tuticorin. ✆ 99940 21194

IN THE COURT OF THE III ADDITIONAL CITY CIVIL AND SESSIONS JUDGE AT BANGALORE
P & SC No. 43 of 2026 (CCH 25)
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF LATE MRS. ELIZABETH JACOB SANDVIK, DAUGHTER OF MR. A V JACOB

BETWEEN: 1. Mr. YOHANN JACOB SANDVIK, aged about 30 years, Son of Mr. Kjetil Sandvik and Late Mrs. Elizabeth Jacob Sandvik, Now residing at: Plogveien 17, H0302, 0679 Oslo, Norway Passport no.: 32040790. PAN Card No.: SNZPS9475M Represented by his GPA Holder Petitioner No.2

2. Ms. YVA JACOB SANDVIK, aged about 29 years, Daughter of Mr. Kjetil Sandvik and Late Mrs. Elizabeth Jacob Sandvik, Now residing at: Lille Froens vei 16, H0201, 0371 Oslo, Norway Passport no.: CCF427659, PAN Card No.: SNZPS9477K ...**PETITIONERS**

AND: NIL .... RESPONDENT

PUBLIC NOTICE

The above-mentioned Petitioners have filed this Petition in accordance with the provisions of the Indian Succession Act, 1925 seeking a grant of a Succession Certificate in respect of the movable assets left behind by the deceased, Mrs. Elizabeth Jacob Sandvik. Notice is issued herein to the General Public that in case anybody has any objection to the Grant of a Succession Certificate to the Petitioners, they may file objections to the same on or before **16-03-2026** failing which the Petition shall be decided in accordance with law.

SCHEDULE "A" PROPERTIES

All that movable assets and properties of the deceased, consisting of:

a) Cash in hand, household goods, jewellery, personal effects as available at the time of death;
b) Cash at Bank maintained with IndusInd Bank Ltd., MG Road Branch, Bengaluru-560001, bearing Account No.: 100023458504;
c) Mutual Fund Investments held through Axis Bank, M.G. Road Branch, Bengaluru- 560001;
d) Equity Shares and Securities held through Depository Participant, IIFL Capital Services Ltd., No. 80, Hulkul Ascent 2nd Cross Lavelle Road, Shantala Nagar, Ashok Nagar, Bengaluru-560001,

together with all Bonuses, Accretions, dividends and corporate benefits attached thereto; together with all interest, accretions and benefits arising therefrom.

Given under my hand and seal of the court on 12-02-2026

By order of the court, Senior Sheristedar, City Civil Court, Bangalore.

LAKSHMI MENON
LAW CHAMBERS OF
LAKSHMI MENON, Advocates
No. 33, 1st Floor, Crescent Road, High Grounds, Bengaluru- 560001.

INBRIEF

Illegal mining: 19 arrested, 245 tonnes sand recovered

In a multi-district crackdown, the Vigilance & Enforcement (V&E) Department arrested 19 persons, apart from identifying about 30 accused including organisers, and recovered approximately 245 tonnes of illegally mined sand during surprise raids conducted on February 19 and 20, 2026.

V&E units from Karimnagar, Warangal and RC Puram carried out coordinated raids across five mandals in Jagtial, Hanamkonda and Nizamabad districts.

Srisailam temple to remain closed during lunar eclipse

Sri Bhramaramba Mallikarjuna Swamy temple in Srisailam will remain closed for over 12 hours on March 3 owing to lunar eclipse. Srisailam temple Executive Officer M. Srinivasa Rao said temple doors will open at 3 a.m. on the day and Suprabhata Seva, other early morning rituals and maha mangala harathi will be performed. From 4.30 a.m. to 5.30 a.m., devotees will be allowed to have darshan of Sri Bhramaramba and Mallikarjuna Swamy. The temple doors will be closed at 6 a.m. and will open at 7.30 p.m., after which temple cleansing and samprokshana will be performed. Darshan will be allowed from 9 p.m. to 10.30 p.m.

Mr. Srinivasa Rao said the Sakshi Ganapati temple, Hatakeswaram, Paladhara-Panchadhara, Shikareswaram and all sub-temples of Srisailam will also remain closed.

Kerala govt. issues order enhancing DA, DR to 35%

The Finance department on Friday issued orders enhancing the rate of dearness allowance (DA) of Kerala government employees and teachers, and dearness relief (DR) of pensioners from the existing 25% to 35%. The order is applicable to State government employees, teachers, full-time contingent employees and employees of local governments. The DR is payable to State service pensioners, family pensioners, ex gratia pensioners and ex gratia family pensioners. In the case of local governments, the additional expenditure has to be met from their own funds.

Kerala has over 2.69 crore voters in final list post SIR

Final electoral roll to be published today; EC's final list has 8.97 lakh voters fewer than the Oct. 2025 roll and 16.54 lakh voters fewer than the list used for the local body polls in Dec. 2025

Tiki Rajwi
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

When compared to the draft roll, voter numbers have gone up by 15.11 lakh in the final roll. FILE PHOTO

Kerala has a little over 2.69 crore voters as per the final voters' list prepared by the Election Commission of India (EC) after the special intensive revision (SIR) of the roll.

The final electoral roll will be formally published on Saturday as per the schedule announced by the EC, Chief Electoral Officer (Kerala) Rathan U. Kelkar said here on Friday. Of the 2,69,53,644 voters in all, 1,38,27,319 are women, 1,31,26,048 are men and 277 are transgender voters.

The EC's final roll has 8.97 lakh less voters compared to the voter roll as it stood in October 2025 and 16.54 lakh less voters compared to the voters list used by the State Election Commission for the local body elections held in December 2025.

The EC roll had 2,78,50,855 voters on October 27, 2025, after a special summary revision. SIR enumeration forms were issued to these voters. When the draft roll was published on December 23 last year, 24.08 lakh voters were excluded, bringing down the number to 2,54,42,352 voters. The separate list maintained by the State Election Commission had 2,86,07,658 voters for the 2025 local body polls. Compared to the draft EC roll, voter numbers have gone up by 15.11 lakh in the final roll.

On Friday, the differences sparked questions from political parties at a meeting convened by the CEO. The CPI(M) representative at the meeting, M.V. Jayarajan, alleged that it was evident from the figures that eligible voters had been excluded after the SIR.

Mr. Kelkar said his office has made every effort to include all eligible voters.

SC indicates 'nexus between power and police' in murder case against A.P. MLC

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court of India on Friday indicated a "clear nexus between power and police" in Andhra Pradesh during the investigation of a 2022 murder case involving a Dalit youth, against YSRCP MLC Ananta Satya Udaya Bhaskar.

"This is a clear case of the nexus between police and power. Police and investigating agencies have been hobnobbing with the accused and all attempts have been made to grant default bail under Section 167(2) Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) to the appellant on a platter," Chief Justice of India Surya Kant, heading a three-judge Bench, remarked.

In July 2025, a trial court had directed the Andhra Pradesh Police to file a supplementary charge sheet within 90 days in the alleged murder of Veedhi Subramanyam.

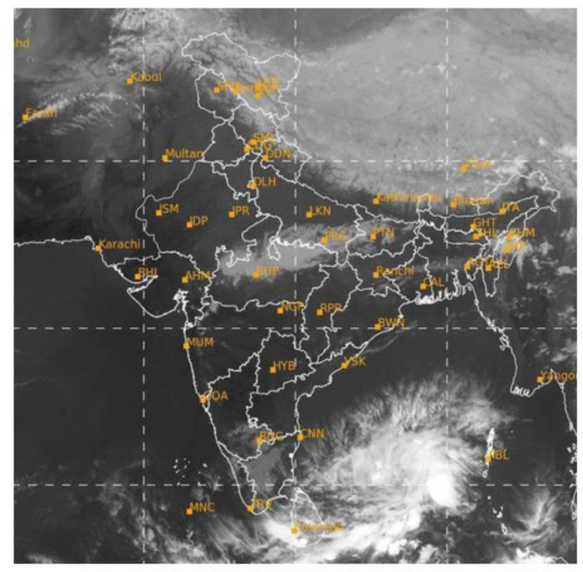
Mr. Bhaskar was the prime accused. The police had also registered a case under the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989. The court asked how the MLC was enjoying interim bail for the last two years.

Senior advocate Siddharth Luthra, appearing in the case, said the supplementary charge sheet was filed, and it had shown a lacklustre if not complicit, approach in the investigation into a serious offence.

The top Court requested the Chief Justice of the Andhra Pradesh High Court to assign a senior judicial officer to exclusively hear the case and frame charges by April 18, 2026. Further the probe, if any, has to be concluded before March 31, 2026. The Bench ordered the trial to be completed before November 30, 2026.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.15 HRS)

Forecast for Saturday: Heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Karaikal, Kerala and Mahe. Thunderstorm accompanied with lightning/gusty winds likely at isolated places over Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Karaikal, Kerala, Mahe and Karnataka

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	32.6	15.6	Kozhikode	—	35.6	25.9
Ahmedabad	—	31.4	20.5	Kurnool	—	36.3	20.0
Aizawl	—	30.7	17.2	Lucknow	—	30.3	15.0
Allahabad	—	28.8	16.4	Madurai	—	34.2	22.5
Bengaluru	—	31.0	18.0	Mangaluru	—	34.7	24.1
Bhopal	—	22.2	16.2	Mumbai	—	32.9	22.1
Bhubaneswar	—	35.4	16.0	Mysuru	—	32.6	19.0
Chandigarh	—	28.3	11.6	New Delhi	—	28.4	12.8
Chennai	—	33.5	24.0	Patna	—	29.0	17.4
Coimbatore	—	33.0	21.5	Port Blair	—	31.1	27.0
Dehradun	—	28.2	11.6	Puducherry	—	31.1	22.2
Gangtok	—	20.7	10.3	Pune	—	35.1	21.3
Goa	—	34.3	22.8	Raipur	—	34.2	19.8
Guwahati	—	31.9	15.1	Ranchi	—	28.6	14.0
Hubballi	—	34.0	20.0	Shillong	—	22.4	12.0
Hyderabad	—	32.2	20.4	Shimla	—	20.6	9.2
Imphal	—	30.5	10.8	Srinagar	—	20.2	0.7
Jaipur	—	28.0	14.8	Thiruvananthapuram	—	35.1	24.6
Kochi	—	33.0	26.2	Tiruchi	—	32.5	22.6
Kohima	—	24.0	10.9	Vijayawada	—	32.4	20.5
Kolkata	—	31.6	18.4	Visakhapatnam	—	33.2	22.7

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.48	..73	36	 89	...144	
Bengaluru	.24	..86	21	 38	...107	
Chennai	...6	..14	51	... 100	...128	
Delhi	.31	..83	74	... 262	...238	
Hyderabad	...3	..11	62	 92	...114	
Kolkata	.10	128	46	... 244	...178	
Lucknow	...9	..27	18	... 124	...106	
Mumbai	.24	..43	41	... 256	...205	
Pune	..—	..64	42	... 243	...202	
Visakhapatnam	...6	..44	20	 74	...107	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Byasanagar, Odisha recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 295 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Madikeri, Karnataka recorded a healthy AQI score of 29

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Kerala hopes to generate 5 lakh jobs in IT, allied sectors

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The Kerala Cabinet on Friday approved the State's Information Technology (IT) policy 2026, with the aim of securing 10% of country's IT exports.

One of the major objectives is to triple the availability of IT space in the State through private participation and decentralised growth, and create at least five lakh new jobs in IT and allied sectors. Thrust will be given to creating an IP-based knowledge industry ecosystem.

The State will focus on achieving a 5-10% share of the Indian economy in high-tech sectors such as space, aerospace, defence, electronics, artificial intelligence (AI), quantum computing and genomics.

The policy sets a target to increase the number of start-ups in the State to 20,000.

The policy also focusses on ensuring 100% Internet access to all households in the State by providing fibre optic connectivity.

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA - DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER & BASIN MANAGER,
SUBARNAREKHA AND BUDHABALANGA BASIN, LAXMIPOSI, DIST : MAYURBHANJ
MAIL ID :- CEBMSBB2019@GMAIL.COM
"e" PROCUREMENT NOTICE
Bid Identification No.- 02 /25-26 of CEBM, SBB, Laxmiposi

1.	Name of Work	Bank Protection Works
2.	Total No of Projects	4 Nos.
3.	Estimated Cost of Individual works	Varies from Rs.677.90 Lakh to Rs.787.35 Lakh (Excluding G.S.T.)
4.	Bid Security	Details can be seen in the DTCN of bid documents of the respected works.
5.	Period of Completion	12 (Twelve) Calendar Months
6.	Class of Contractor	"A" Class and "Special" Class
7.	Date & Time of Sale & receipt of bid documents	Dt.21.02.2026 at 10.00 AM to Dt.13.03.2026 up to 5.00 PM.
8.	Date of Opening of Bid	Dt.14.03.2026 at 11:00 AM in O/O the CE&BM, Subarnarekha & Budhabalanga Basin, Laxmiposi, Mayurbhanj
9.	Name & Address of the O.I.T.	Chief Engineer & Basin Manager, O/O the CE&BM, Subarnarekha & Budhabalanga Basin, Laxmiposi, Mayurbhanj

Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement Portal **"https://tendersodisha.gov.in"**.
Corrigendum if any will be published in e-Procurement site.
Chief Engineer & Basin Manager,
Subarnarekha & Budhabalanga Basin, Laxmiposi, Mayurbhanj
32001/109/2526 OIPR-32001/32429/1/25-26/0001

BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD
Office of the Chief Engineer (West),
6th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bengaluru - 560009.
INVITATION FOR TENDER
(Through KPP Portal Only)
BWSSB invites Tenders from registered Agencies for the following Works.

Sl. No.	Division	IFT Number	Amount Put to Tender / EMD Amount	Last Date & Time for Submission of Tender	Date & Time for Opening of Tender
1	(West-1)	BWSSB/ EEW-1/TO/ PB/5642/ 2025-26 Dated: 20-02-2026	Rs. 37,99,131/- / Rs. 76,000/- / Rs. 26,47,610/- / Rs. 53,000/-	03-03-2026 Upto 4.00 PM	04-03-2026 after 4.30 PM

Sd/- Executive Engineer (West-1)
The details regarding the tender and participation in the e-Procurement Portal process can be obtained by logging on to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.**
For further details contact the above signed office during working hours.
DIPR/CP/Adverto/5773/2025-26

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
STATE EXCISE DEPARTMENT
Office of the Excise Commissioner, 2nd Floor, TTMC 'A' Block, BMTC Building, Shanthinagar, Bengaluru-560027
E-tender Notification
Sub: Supply & Installation of Check Post Container (Customized) (03) NO's to specified locations of districts of Karnataka. **Ref:** GeM Publish Date:19-02-2026.
Inviting all the eligible manufactures through online Government e-Marketplace (GeM) portal **"https://gem. gov.in/"**, (GeM BID NO:GEM/2026/B/ 7256484) for the Supply, Delivery and Installation of Check-Post Containers (Customized) to Districts of Karnataka. Selection of the tender will be in two bid system (Technical & Financial Bid).
Scope of Work & Timeline:-
Supply and Installation of Check-Post Containers to the below mentioned location of districts of Karnataka.
(Time Line :- 15 days from the order date)
1.Kadechur (PutPak), Yadagiri district. **2.** Nangali, Mulbagal Taluk, Kolar district. **3.** Kanakumbi, Khanapur taluk, Belagavi district.
Sd/-
DIPR/CP/5780/Zen/2025-26 **Excise Commissioner, Bengaluru**

KARNATAKA INDUSTRIAL AREAS DEVELOPMENT BOARD
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
No.2, 2/1 and 2/3, Kalidasa Marg, 1st Main Road, Gandhinagar
Bengaluru - 560 009. Phone No. 080-22265383, website: www.kiadb.in
No. IADB/ENGG/ETND-EP-87/2056/2025-26 **Date: 20.02.2026**
SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING TENDER
(Through GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Only)
Item Rate Tender under two cover bid system is invited for the work mentioned below as per the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 1999 and Rules 2000 through electronic procurement from eligible Contractors who have got adequate financial resources, state of the art technology, suitable construction equipments, technical man power & sufficient past experience for the following work as per the schedule given below:
Name of the Work : Extending 11kV express feeder from existing 66/11kV Kandli substation to Thimmanahalli Industrial Area and providing 250KVA transformer centers to Thimmanahalli Industrial Area, Hassan Taluk & District.
The last date and time of receipt of tender is : **07.03.2026** upto **4.00 pm.**
Applicants May Download Bidding Documents from the Karnataka Public Procurement Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.**
Sd/-
Chief Engineer-1,
KIADB Bengaluru
DIPR/CP/5792/Zen/2025-26

THE SPECIAL OFFICER AND COMPETENT AUTHORITY
(UNDER KPIDFE - IMA & OTHER SCAM)
3rd Floor, Podium Block, V.V Tower, Dr. Ambedkar Veedhi, Bengaluru-560001
NOTICE/INVITATION FOR E-AUCTION FOR IMMOVABLE PROPERTY
Pursuant to attachment of Immovable properties by the Government under the provisions of the Karnataka Protection of Interest of Depositors in Financial Establishments Act, 2004 (KPIDFE Act) and pursuant to the absolute attachment order by the Hon'ble Special Court the Special Officer & Competent Authority (under KPIDFE-IMA and other Scam), is issuing notice for e-auction of the immovable property through e-auction on 'as is where is and whatever there is basis'.
The intending bidders will be required to furnish Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) (as mentioned against each auction in the e-portal provided by the Service Provider/Karnataka Public Procurement Portal only).
SHORT DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY
Properties are free of all encumbrances and are in the name of Competent Authority appointed by Government and confirmed by the Special Court under KPIDFE Act, 2004.
All that piece and parcel of the property bearing Sy.No.412, 416/1 and 416/2 of Devanahalli village, Kasaba Hobli, Devanahalli Taluk, Bangalore Rural District, together measuring 7 Acres 16 guntas, residentially converted by the office of the Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore Rural District, Bangalore vide ALN(DK) SR.No.86/2012-13, dated: 20-04-2013, ALN (DK) SR 50/2012-13, dated: 20-04-2013 and ALN (DK) SR 52/2012-13, dated: 20-04-2013 respectively comes under the administrative jurisdiction of Devanahalli Town municipal council, Devanahalli Taluk, Bangalore Rural District bounded on: East by: Road, West by: Sy.no.413 & 420, North by: Sy.no 417 & 419, South by: Private property and Sy.no. 411.
Google Map Link: https://maps.app.goo.gl/kcpwxUcBiPP37ztZ7 (Under Construction 69 flats (SKYVIEW APARTMENTS) which is constructed on above property , for more details regarding Minimum bid Price, EMD and other details please visit Karnataka Public Procurement Portal https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in & https://sploca.org/)

Date of Inspection & time	Date of Pre-bid meeting & time and Place	Last Date of Submission of Bids & EMD submission	Date & Time of E Auction
23rd February 2026 10:00am to 01:00pm	23rd February 2026 3 pm to 4 pm	27th February 2026 until 5pm	02nd March 2026 11 am to 1 pm

For Registration & Online Auction, you can login to: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** (Helpdesk No: 080-46010000, 080-68948777) The interested bidders who require auction related information can contact **Assistant Commissioner, Office of the Special Officer & Competent Authority,** 3rd Floor, Podium Block, Visveswaraiah Towers, Dr.Ambedkar Veedi, Bengaluru-560001, e-mail ID: **splocaeauction@gmail.com** or Contact Mob. No 9945515174
Sd/-
Special Officer & Competent Authority
(Under KPIDFE –IMA & Other Scam) Bengaluru.
Date: 19.02.2026
Place: Bengaluru
DIPR/CP/5789/ZEN/2025-26

BENGALURU CENTRAL CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Engineer (MPED&Transport), Ground Floor, Annexe-2 building, GBA HO Premises, Bengaluru-560 002.
No:EE(MPED&Transport)/TEND/05/2025-26 **Date: 19-02-2026**
CANCELLATION OF TENDER
Subject: Regarding paper Notification for cancellation of tender for security/Housekeeping services.
Reference: No:EE(MPED&Transport)/TEND/05/2025-26 Date: 17-02-2026
With reference to the above subject, the tender was invited on **17-02-2026** by the Executive Engineer (MPED & Transport) for the maintenance of security and housekeeping services in Bengaluru Central City Corporation Head office and Sir. Puttanna Chetty Town Hall.
Further, due to technical reasons, The said tender is cancelled on **18-02-2026.**
Sd/- Executive Engineer
MPED & Transport

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521)
No. CEE/TZB/SEE(O)/AE-2/NEL-482(4)/2025-26/10658 Dated : 20.02.2026
CANCELLATION OF TENDER NOTIFICATION
Tender Notification bid against the enquiry no: KPTCL/CEE/Tr(Op)Z/BZ/TTK-28 for the work of "Replacement of Existing deteriorated Battery Sets of 220V, 600AH Battery Bank-1 and Bank-2 **under Buy Back Scheme** at **400kV Nelamangala R/s,** coming under Operations Division, Nelamangala on **Total Turnkey Basis** including supply of Battery Set, along with installing, assembling, filling of acid, wiring, assisting, test charging and discharging of 220V Battery set and commissioning" published in this paper on 07.02.2026 is dropped due to administrative reason.
Sd/- Chief Engineer Electy.,
Transmission (Operations) Zone, KPTCL,
A.R.Circle, Bengaluru-09.

Treatise for federalism

The Kurian Joseph report must provoke a debate on reversing centralisation

A high-level committee on Union-State relations appointed by the Government of Tamil Nadu has mapped the pattern of centralisation of power and the weakening of federal democracy in India over the decades, and suggested comprehensive corrective measures. The three-member Committee, chaired by a former Supreme Court judge, Justice Kurian Joseph, has drawn on scholarship across various disciplines, Constituent Assembly debates, and the findings of three other committees on Centre-State relations, while also critiquing recent governance trends that weaken the authority of States. It concludes that centralisation is increasing – which it notes is not healthy – and calls for urgent remedial measures. The report is an expansive critique of the dilapidation of federalism, threatening India's progress, and calls for changes to reverse the dangerous course, stating that "Indian federalism now requires a structural reset comparable in ambition to the economic reforms of 1991". India's constitutional framework took shape against the backdrop of Partition, and the consolidation of princely States. The context encouraged the founders to tilt towards a centralising constitutional scheme; legislative, administrative, and judicial measures in the ensuing decades further reinforced this line of thinking. The report convincingly takes down the arguments for centralisation, and argues that federalised governance is essential for a country of India's size and diversity, and that it would in fact be dangerous to overlook this imperative.

The Kurian Joseph Committee report comes amid repeated and deliberate moves by the Union to centralise power. The Constitution can be amended far too easily for a federal polity, and this creates a self-perpetuating cycle of centralisation. The territorial integrity of States is at the mercy of the Centre, most blatantly illustrated by the dismantling of Jammu and Kashmir into two Union Territories in 2019. The misplaced idea that the country needs one national language is being pursued by the Union government, which is particularly assertive on the question. Governors have become instruments of the Centre's overreach in all areas of governance. The impending inter-State delimitation of Lok Sabha constituencies is causing anxiety among States that have stabilised their populations and stand to lose their relative weight in national governance. The Union has overt power in the conduct of elections, and key sectors such as education and health are being increasingly centralised. The GST regime has restructured India's fiscal landscape in favour of the Union and at States' expense. This report lays out the logic, facts and common sense about why federated governance should be the path to progress. This report must form the basis for a new national conversation.

Safety first

Manipur needs a healing touch that cuts the cycle of violence

If a bruised and bleeding Manipur wants to heal, the words of its first woman Deputy Chief Minister, Nemcha Kipgen, must be heard. She wants the buffer zones between the Meiteis and the Kuki-Zo communities to remain for now, particularly in areas where the scars run deep, because safety comes first. Hailing from the Kuki-Zo community, Ms. Kipgen had to take oath virtually from New Delhi when a new government was installed in the State capital, Imphal, on February 4, after two years of violence and a long stint of President's Rule. While Chief Minister Yumnam Khemchand Singh is a Meitei, in an attempt to represent the three major communities in the government, Ms. Kipgen and Losii Dikho, a Naga, were named Deputy Chief Ministers. But the complexity of the ground situation is such that Ms. Kipgen is stationed in Kuki-dominated Kangpokpi, and unable to attend the Assembly session in Imphal due to security concerns. In an interview to *The Hindu*, she described approaching the road to peace like a mother, with empathy and care. Her work is cut out because, at this juncture, there is an acute deficit of trust in the BJP government, and between the majority Meiteis, who dominate Imphal Valley, and the tribals, particularly the Kuki-Zo communities, of the hill districts.

More than 250 people have been killed and around 60,000 people were displaced after ethnic violence between the Kuki-Zo and Meitei people erupted in the northeastern State on May 3, 2023. What is worrying is that skirmishes have begun between the Kuki-Zo and Nagas as well, with the Manipur police having to evacuate Kuki students from a school in Naga-dominated Ukhrul district after a recent flare-up between the communities. Manipur is no stranger to violence, having witnessed waves of insurgencies ever since it attained full Statehood in 1972, and the three main communities must find a way to peaceful coexistence in the geographical space they live in. Ms. Kipgen wants to hear each community's pain on their terms but she also drives home the point that every one must recognise the common ground that binds Manipuris – "our shared spaces, tribal heritage, cultural values, languages, faith traditions, social institutions, and our future, especially the future of our children". Harmony, she says, does not mean sameness; "it means respecting distinct identities while strengthening the bonds that allow us to live together". Her political masters too will do well to hear these words because the cycle of violence has to be broken. A rhetoric of hate has no winners. But first, Ms. Kipgen has to feel confident to travel to Imphal.

Gen Z and the dynamics of democratic engagement

Ajay Gudavarthy

is Associate Professor, Centre for Political Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University

Democracies across the globe have been witnessing backsliding and counter-narratives have not been too successful in arresting the malaise. In this context, Generation Z, or Gen Z (those born roughly between 1997 and 2012), has emerged as a renewed source of hope at a time when many people had begun to resign themselves to authoritarian regimes and their unresponsive governance.

In Bangladesh (2024) and Nepal (2025), Gen Z has spearheaded regime-challenging protests, mobilising around issues of corruption, transparency and institutional accountability. These sporadic protests proved to be more effective than the earlier round of such mass protests, examples being the Occupy Wall Street in the United States (2011), the Arab Spring (the early 2010s), and the Brazilian Spring (2013). Some of these protests hit the headlines but did not make effective policy changes, leave alone regime change. So, how do we make sense of such sudden eruptions?

Every generation recalibrates ethics, values and social practices in a manner that is distinct from the previous generations. Therefore, it takes time to make sense of what the new generations think and say – the ingredients of old practices and imagination melt into a new recipe. The old has an 'absent presence' in the way the new gets articulated. The new looks like a distorted version of the old, and the older generations, understandably, feel disappointed and disturbed.

The essence, its worldview

Long dismissed as preoccupied, politically disengaged, and lost in the virtual world, Gen Z defied expectations by expressing anguish in such an 'organised way'. Observers continue to interpret such movements as flash-in-the-pan political mobilisations – characterised by pointed demands but marked by an episodic and short-lived presence. One can make better sense of such political events only if one gets to understand the emergent political subjectivity of Gen Z, beyond conventional registers. While democracies are typically understood in terms of constitutional frameworks and institutional structures, their true substratum consists of shifting everyday moral practices and latent collective emotions.

To begin with, Gen Z is an uncanny combination of radical individualism and social indifference, but with less prejudice and a less jaundiced view of the world. It is too removed to be myopic, too nonchalant to be emotional, and too indifferent to be prejudiced and discriminatory. Gen Z seems to believe in a worldview that the 'personal is political' but political is not personal. It is not involved in worldly affairs but that does not mean it lacks a worldview.

> With its digital activism and episodic protests, this generation is emerging as a renewed source of hope in an authoritarian world

Being political seems to matter the most in its personal conduct and the way it is treated. In essence, it operates primarily as exemplars rather than as emissaries. It believes in living rather than making propositions – and, therefore, not ideologically motivated – and in making practical sense of the world. It resists being preached to and is sensitive about not preaching to others, which makes forging collective struggles that much more difficult. It responds readily to lived hierarchies but that does not necessarily reflect a structural understanding of those hierarchies.

Gen Z avoids making moral judgments about the world. It also makes people within this generation more active in the virtual world than the real one. They find it more agreeable to work and express their views on virtual platforms than attend physical meets to interact. This instinct to avoid thick face-to-face interaction has an impact on the nature of protest and in imagining democratic futures. It is for this reason that Gen Z is more at home with sporadic and episodic protests than organised movements; their protests are leaderless and without pronounced ideological frames.

A comparison of protests

The difference becomes clear when one compares the farmers' movement (2020-24) with the Gen Z protests. The farmers were formally organised, had a sustained leadership and pronounced demands. They could sustain a movement for years. In comparison, Gen Z protests fizzle out and disappear without a trace but nevertheless leave a great impact behind.

The changing modes of protest also have something to do with again an uncanny combination of confidence and anxiety. Gen Z is the first self-confident generation in post-independent India but also the most anxious one. Gen Z is a result of both sustained social democratisation and fast disappearing economic opportunities. Sustained democratisation has allowed Gen Z to be more open about 'self' introspection.

The people of this generation are at ease with counselling and therapy; therefore, mental health-related issues are pronounced.

Previous generations were less comfortable in accepting emotional trauma and seem to have passed on a lot of the toxic and masculine stuff to the next generation. Gen Z is more conscious and wants to overcome the battles of 'mental despair'.

The New York Times reported a sense of "mental despair" not only among unemployed youth but also among those employed, many of whom find their workplaces toxic and experience routine anomie. Much of this is reflected in their attitudes to politics and democracy. They are assertive but suffer from insecurity. The precarity of Gen Z gets reflected in its fragmented and fleeting involvement with democratic events and issues. It can assert ancient values because it demands confidence to claim one's own culture and reject radical transformation because it is clichéd.

Unpredictable impact

Finally, one unmistakable feature of Gen Z is the connect between its self-representation or identity and pronounced consumption patterns. Market is integral to its self-making and social imaginaries that challenge/disturb the ascriptive identities of caste and religion. With a greater reach of market, technology and education, Gen Z follows global fashion trends, technological innovations and looks for newer educational opportunities.

All of this makes Gen Z more secularised but inward-looking, and giving undue importance to personal choices. Possessing the latest iPhone is seen as a great equaliser, transcending the complex debates surrounding class inequality. Access to information is a greater source of dignity than the caste and religion one is born into.

However, engagement with fast-changing technologies and information may contribute to hyper-nationalism and the propagation of empty rhetoric of the glorious past. The rise of hyper-nationalism today is less concerned with the chauvinistic superiority that Tagore worried about and more focused on projecting ambitious claims about future possibilities. India might be a poor country yet has launched space missions; despite grave inequalities, it also maintains a notable presence in Silicon Valley. Gen Z will continue to disappoint us with responses we expect, yet surprise us with responses we have not yet thought about.

'Bhasha' matters in India's multilingual moment

Tim Curtis

is Director and Representative, UNESCO Regional Office for South Asia, and Member, Team UN in India

India stands at an extraordinary crossroads, with a linguistic landscape unmatched in scale and richness. According to the 2011 Census, India is home to more than 1,300 mother tongues and 121 constitutionally recognised languages. This diversity is not merely a statistic. It is a national strength, central to how children learn, grow and understand the world.

When a language disappears, we lose more than words. We lose a way of understanding the world built over generations. Safeguarding languages is, therefore, not only a cultural imperative. It is fundamentally a question of holding on to humanity's accumulated knowledge, which in turn makes it an educational issue. This is why mother-tongue-based multilingual education (MTB-MLE) is critical.

Basis for quality education

As we mark International Mother Language Day (February 21), under the theme "Youth voices on multilingual education", the message is clear: young people thrive when their languages – and, therefore, their identities – are recognised and valued in the classroom. When this happens, schools become spaces where children learn about themselves, others, and the world in all its diversity. UNESCO has long championed multilingual teaching, based on the language best understood and spoken, as a condition for quality education.

Each year, UNESCO publishes the State of the Education Report for India, focusing on a specific themes. This year, which is the seventh edition (2025), Bhasha Matters: Mother Tongue and Multilingual Education, brought together global research, new national evidence and practical lessons to explore the state of Mother Tongue and Multilingual Education in India. The report demonstrates that MTB-MLE is not only pedagogically sound but also transformative. It outlines 10 policy recommendations to guide India towards a more inclusive and equitable education system that treats linguistic diversity as an asset rather than a challenge. It also highlights what is working – from bilingual learning materials and teacher preparation to innovative digital solutions that bring multilingual resources to classrooms and communities

> Mother-tongue-based multilingual education is central to inclusive and effective education

A barrier of language

Globally, over a quarter of a billion learners lack access to education in a language they fully understand. In India, nearly 44% of children enter school speaking a language that is different from the medium of instruction, according to the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) in 2022. For these children, learning begins with the added burden of decoding an unfamiliar language before grasping academic concepts. Weak foundational literacy and numeracy can lead to cumulative learning gaps, reduced confidence and, ultimately, a higher risk of dropout.

India has taken decisive steps to address this challenge. The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, followed by the National Curriculum Frameworks of 2022 and 2023, places the child's home or mother tongue at the centre of early education.

The Bhasha Matters report highlights promising examples. In Odisha, a long-standing multilingual education programme spans 21 tribal languages across 17 districts, supporting nearly 90,000 children. In Telangana, the use of Digital Infrastructure for Knowledge Sharing (DIKSHA)-enabled multilingual resources demonstrates how digital tools can expand access to learning materials in local languages. National initiatives such as PM eVIDYA, Adi Vaani (developed by a national consortium), BHASHINI (BHash-based ANd Intelligent Node for InclusioN in India) and AI4Bharat's community-developed language technologies show how digital platforms and artificial intelligence can help document endangered languages, create local-language content and support teachers with multilingual resources.

Building on these examples, Bhasha Matters sets out a practical road map. It calls for clear state-level language-in-education policies grounded in MTB-MLE, stronger teacher recruitment and professional standards for multilingual classrooms, and reforms in pre-service and in-service training to embed multilingual pedagogy. It emphasises high-quality multilingual materials and assessments, community participation and indigenous knowledge, gender-responsive approaches, responsible investment in language technologies, and sustainable financing. Crucially, it proposes a National Mission for Mother-Tongue-Based Multilingual Education to coordinate action across ministries, research institutions, civil society and technology partners, ensuring that promising pilots become systemic reform.

Linguistic diversity is a driver

India's linguistic diversity is not a barrier to development; it is a powerful driver of equity, identity and social cohesion. With States already demonstrating what is possible, and with clear policy frameworks in place, the country stands at the threshold of transformative educational change. This shift reflects a growing body of evidence: children learn best when taught in a language they understand.

On International Mother Language Day, the call is clear. Education systems must recognise and value every learner's language, not only to improve learning outcomes but also to affirm identity, well-being and meaningful participation in society.

When young people's voices are heard, multilingual education becomes more than a policy aspiration. It becomes a shared national movement. India's multilingual moment has arrived – and its youth are helping to shape its future.

Link to report:
https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000397158

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Legal jugglery

The report, "'No clear evidence', man gets sentence for attempt to rape" (Inside pages, February 20), describing the shameful act of a rapist, was immensely disturbing to read. While legal processes require precision and careful interpretation, the language often used in such cases — as in this report — can unintentionally overshadow the gravity of the violation and the trauma endured by survivors. Sexual violence is fundamentally an act of coercion and violation. Attempts to narrowly interpret or technically categorise such crimes risk diminishing their seriousness. No legal reasoning should obscure the lived reality of force, fear, and harm experienced by survivors. Courts must of course follow the law, but sensitivity in both interpretation and public communication is essential. Legal terminology should not appear to dilute the moral weight of such offences or compound the distress of those affected.

C.K. Prem Kumar,
Kalvakulam, Palakkad, Kerala

AI summit, disruptions

The sudden withdrawal of Bill Gates from the India AI Impact Summit 2026 — officially framed as an effort to maintain focus on AI-related discussions — coincided with renewed Epstein-related headlines following recent U.S. Justice Department disclosures (Front page, "Bill Gates pulls out of AI Summit", February 20). The wave of revelations has also brought scrutiny to a Union Minister's past professional correspondence with Epstein, sparking political controversy. The convergence of these developments casts a shadow over a summit meant to project India's technological confidence. Instead of headlines about innovation, the narrative appears to have shifted toward controversy, blurring the message that India hoped to send to the world. At a time when the country is advancing major AI partnerships, industry pledges, and government programmes aimed at leading the Global South, a nation on the cusp of technological leadership must ensure that momentary storms do not eclipse its long-term vision.

Shreyan Kumar Mishra,
Kolkata

Accessibility gaps

Delhi's metro network is praised for its scale and modernity, and there have been visible improvements in accessibility. Yet, for persons with disabilities and mobility challenges, it still falls short of being truly inclusive. A major concern is the lack of functional lifts at some stations. At Dwarka Mor, a lift has now been permanently sealed off. For wheelchair users and those using crutches, prosthetics or walkers, lifts are a necessity. Without them, the metro becomes inaccessible. Staircases and escalators cannot substitute for lifts. Last-mile connectivity is another challenge. Even when stations are accessible inside, reaching them is difficult due to uneven pavements, missing ramps, and a lack of accessible transport options.

Sabir Nishat,
New Delhi

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the postal address.

A lane that leads to Radhika Kamble's house in Sangamnagar in Mumbai. EMMANUAL YOGINI

Waiting for ₹1,500

The Mukhyamantri Majhi Ladki Bahin Yojana was rolled out ahead of the Maharashtra Assembly elections in mid-2024. It assured women between the ages of 21 and 65 a monthly stipend of ₹1,500, and the first tranche of payouts were made. After the Mahayuti government returned to power, it introduced mandatory e-KYC verification, which led to a reduction in the number of eligible beneficiaries, reports **Vinaya Deshpande Pandit**

Radhika Kamble, 49, seethes with anger every time someone mentions the Ladki Bahin Yojana, Maharashtra's welfare initiative targeted at women. She feels betrayed, because two years after the scheme's announcement, she has not yet been able to become a beneficiary. For a widow taking care of the household, the process was too overwhelming and there was no help, she says.

But that was not what left her feeling vulnerable. Within months of her husband dying, she was asked to take a photograph bereft of the mangalsutra, a symbol of marriage.

"They told me that the officials should be able to easily identify women who really need the money. Married women don't need it as much. We need it the most. The government will understand after looking at our photos, we were told," she says. She chokes on her emotions. Sitting in a small, unventilated room in Sangamnagar, Mumbai, she goes through the documents and her photo again and again. Frustrated, she says, "Maybe money is not written into my fate."

Glitches and headaches

The Maharashtra government launched the Mukhyamantri Majhi Ladki Bahin Yojana on June 28, 2024, under the leadership of then Chief Minister Eknath Shinde, "to promote women's economic independence, improve their health and nutrition, and strengthen their decisive role in the family," as per the policy document.

The government said the scheme would provide ₹1,500 via a Direct Benefit Transfer to women in Maharashtra between ages 21 and 65 years, from low-income families. The family's annual income was to be below ₹2.5 lakh.

Mukhyamantri Majhi Ladki Bahin Yojana – translated as the Chief Minister's 'My Favourite Sister' scheme – was modelled on a similar scheme in Madhya Pradesh, and was expected to cost the government ₹46,000 crore annually.

The government introduced terms and conditions for the scheme. Women who had a family member with government employment, or belonging to families that paid taxes, or belonged to families that owned a car did not qualify. There was a cap of two women per household who could get the cash benefit. Those who were getting similar amounts of money from other government schemes were also not eligible.

In July, the first month after the scheme was launched, the government received 1.5 crore applications from across Maharashtra, says Amol Shinde, who was the head of the CM Welfare Cell when the scheme was launched in the previous Eknath Shinde government. The first payments to the 1.5 crore women started in August 2024, two days ahead of Raksha Bandhan, and a few months ahead of the Assembly elections. Women thronged banks to get their Know-Your-Customer (KYC) established, so they could avail themselves of the money. In the second month, September, about 2.6 crore women were registered. The scrutiny of the applications than began taking place and only 2.4 crore received the benefit, says Shinde. The government subsequently introduced another condition requiring women to complete e-KYC verification, after which the number of beneficiaries began to decline. In December 2025, the number of beneficiaries was 1.57 crore.

> After several visits, my son asked me not to feel bitter and to give up on it. I still feel there has to be some resolution. But there is no helpline, nobody to guide me
>
> **RADHIKA KAMBLE**
> Widow and mother of two

Many women say the payments came for several months, and then simply stopped, despite all documentation being complete. Some beneficiaries are still struggling to link their Aadhaar numbers to their bank accounts through an online system that often requires external assistance to complete the necessary forms.

The Opposition in Maharashtra has trained its guns on the government for slashing the number of beneficiaries, and for the financial strain the scheme has put on the State exchequer. It has accused the government of diverting funds from other welfare schemes to continue giving benefits under Majhi Ladki Bahin.

In June 2025, Nationalist Congress Party (SP) MP Supriya Sule told reporters that the scheme was a ₹4,800 crore fraud, with 14,000 men benefiting from it. She called for a white paper and a Special Investigation Report (SIT) on the scheme, saying many deserving women had been left out.

Women tie rakhis to then Mahrashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde after the launch of the Mukhyamantri Majhi Ladki Bahin scheme in Mumbai. ANI

In 2025, flawed e-KYC questions wrongly flagged 24 lakh beneficiaries as government employees, halting their instalments, according to the Women and Child Development Department. Technical issues and glitches with the portal have plagued the effective rollout of the scheme so far, with women complaining of OTP failures, Aadhaar-bank linkage errors, and data mismatches.

In July 2025, a verification drive led to the suspension of 26.34 lakh accounts due to irregularities, including multiple claims within the same family, men receiving funds, and beneficiaries availing themselves of dual scheme benefits. Re-verification was subsequently conducted by district collectors. In January 2026, the e-KYC deadline was extended as a 'last chance' to rectify errors/OTP issues, until March 31, 2026.

Women speak out

In Mumbai's Sangamnagar, Radhika, a mother of two, both in their 20s, lost her husband. A clerk, he fell and broke his hip. "We did not have the money to get him operated on," she says. He eventually died.

The period after his death is a fog for her. When the scheme was announced, a local politician brought tempos with local party workers, who went door-to-door distributing forms for the scheme. Many women said they queued up at these tempos to submit the forms along with their documents.

Radhika was one of them. When she did not get any instalment as other women started getting theirs in their account, she went to her bank to inquire. They asked her to check online. The operator of the cybercafe around her house asked her to visit her bank, saying some KYC documentation was pending. She went repeatedly between the bank and the cybercafe. Each time she had to travel to the nationalised bank, she would have to skip work, the odd jobs she had picked up in the vicinity.

"After several visits, my son asked me not to feel bitter and to give up on it. I still feel there has to be some resolution. But there is no helpline, nobody to guide me," she says. Now, with a new window for e-KYC opening up, she has filled it online and hopes to be enrolled as a beneficiary.

It is similar for Shakuntala Devi, 55, whose bank account was not linked to her Aadhaar number. Devi stays with her husband, two daughters, and a grand-daughter. She lost her son last year. Her husband is a taxi driver.

"Her account was shut down automatically," says her 26-year-old daughter Nandini Gautam. "We don't know if it was because it was inactive. We opened another account and linked it with her Aadhaar, but the record showed that the seeding was inactive. The bank told us to fill up a DBT form. We did it. And yet, she hasn't got a single instalment as yet."

Nandini was herself getting instalments till December 2025, when she was asked to do the KYC again. The server issues and website problems did not allow her to complete the KYC process in the stipulated time, she says, adding that she has now completed the process on the phone after the new window opened up.

Pragati Nakti, 22, mother to a baby, used to get her instalments regularly without any problems till June 2025. Then, they stopped. She doesn't know why. Nothing has changed, she says, adding that the post office where her money used to get deposited, can't find a reason either. She lives with her brother, parents, and uncle, and is the only woman of the house who has filled the form.

Apart from filling the form online on the portal, many women have also filled up offline forms via Anganwadi *sevikas*, ASHA workers, and gram sevaks. In fact, a few months ago, the ASHA workers and Anganwadi *sevikas* refused to shoulder the extra burden of work any more.

Using the funds

Women say the money helps them spend on medicine, on children's food and education, and on the daily needs of the family. "We don't have to ask our husbands for money any more. We get our own money. It feels good. But we do not know for how long we will get it. There is always a sense that this will stop any minute," says Shabnam Abdul Gaffar Shah, a 35-year old mother of five, in Mumbai's Indiranagar.

The scheme helped buffer the shock of floods in Maharashtra's Marathwada in 2025. It has helped in the empowerment of women, giving a boost to the rural economy, says Shinde.

He says they garnered this intelligence from the women. "We had formed a helpline to seek responses of women who were the early beneficiaries. It was astounding, the impact the scheme had. Shops started flourishing again. Women were seen to be spending primarily on healthcare, on children's education, clothing," he says.

Shinde says that while Madhya Pradesh's Ladli Behna Yojana was their role model, the government drew inspiration from the success of its own scheme, Shasan Aplya Daari, which translates to government at your doorstep. Under this scheme, the government approached people with its schemes to increase the number of beneficiaries.

"We realised after the analysis of data that very few women were drawing benefits from government schemes. That is when we thought we needed to do something to increase the coverage of women," he says. At the time, the Opposition had criticised the timing of the scheme, considering it came just before the Maharashtra elections.

As a pilot, the Mukhyamantri Mahila Sashaktikaran Abhiyaan or Chief Minister's Women Empowerment Drive was launched in two districts of Maharashtra. It was withdrawn almost immediately due to technical issues, but was reintroduced after the government order was modified on October 6, 2023.

"Inspired by its success, we launched the Nari Shaktidoot app. Within one day, 50,000 women registered on it. When we saw that women were aware and interested in schemes, we worked to roll out this scheme in barely three months. After the announcement, 2.47 crore women enrolled themselves. It was a record, and a very satisfying process," he said.

He added that he had prepared a list of 10 names, and that the then Chief Minister Eknath Shinde had liked and chosen the current name 'Mukhyamantri Majhi Ladki Bahin Yojana'.

vinaya.deshpande@thehindu.co.in

From Page One

U.S. Supreme Court halts Trump's sweeping tariffs

The Supreme Court ruling comes despite a series of short-term wins on the court's emergency docket that have allowed Mr. Trump to push ahead with extraordinary flexes of executive power on issues ranging from high-profile firings to major federal funding cuts.

Mr. Trump on Friday said the court's ruling that struck down his sweeping tariffs was "deeply disappointing" and that he was "absolutely ashamed" by the justices who ruled against him in the 6-3 decision.

Mr. Trump set what he called "reciprocal" tariffs on most countries in April 2025 to address trade deficits, which he declared a national emergency.

However, Justices Samuel Alito, Clarence Thomas and Brett Kavanaugh dissented. "The tariffs at issue here may or may not be wise policy. But as a matter of text, history, and precedent, they are clearly lawful," Justice Kavanaugh wrote.

The majority did not address whether companies could get refunded for the billions they have collectively paid in tariffs. Many companies, including the big-box warehouse chain Costco, have already lined up to demand refunds in lower courts. Justice Kavanaugh noted the process could be complicated.

Judicial officers to join SIR process in Bengal

The past hearings had seen the court try to intervene and bring the "running dispute" between the two to an amicable end. Friday saw the court compelled to move in.

"The foremost and urgent issue revolves around the completion of SIR in West Bengal... Allegations and counter-allegations are being traded between two constitutional functionaries, namely the democratically elected State government and the Election Commission of India. The SIR process is stuck," the top court said.

The court observed that a stalled SIR process would lead to "serious consequences" for lakhs in West Bengal whose citizenship was under scrutiny.

The Bench asked the High Court Chief Justice to hold a meeting on February 21 with the State Election Commissioner, the West Bengal Chief Secretary, the Director-General of Police and the Advocate-General of the State, to iron out a plan for the deployment of judicial officers, who should be in the rank of District or Additional District Judge. Their instructions would be deemed to be that of the Supreme Court, and the State/district administration would have to comply without demur.

"The circumstances being extraordinary, the inclusion of judicial officers is extraordinary in nature. It may have some impact on the pending court cases," the Supreme Court acknowledged.

The Bench proposed shifting urgent cases pending with the deployed judicial officers to other courts for a period of a week or 10 days "by which the entire process [SIR] is required to be completed". The top court agreed with a suggestion from the EC that it should be allowed to publish the list of voters whose names have been cleared in the SIR process on February 28. The rest could be included in a supplementary roll.

"A list of names already cleared can be published on February 28. Names can be included in the electoral roll until the last date of nomination. How can this prejudice anyone?" senior advocate Dama Seshadri Naidu, for the EC, submitted.

Senior advocate Kapil Sibal, for West Bengal, said such a publication may lead to a "law-and-order" situation. But the Chief Justice said the electoral roll of names published on February 28 would not be treated as a final one. "It is an ongoing process," the court said.

It posted the case on March 10, 2026.

Pleas filed to use top court to 'embarrass' States, says SC

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

Chief Justice of India Surya Kant on Friday deprecated the tendency of filing petitions to use the Supreme Court as a platform to "embarrass" State governments ahead of Assembly elections.

The Chief Justice, heading a three-judge Bench, said petitions filed by private parties and NGOs are designed to put State governments in a tight spot.

Chief Justice Kant said the petitions raise warning bells in the court, as their timings, usually when the clock is ticking towards an election, are "usually suspect".

The court was hearing a petition filed by an NGO, Human Rights Foundation, on the installation of PVC flex boards in Kerala, where elections are due this year.

"The problem is people have started fighting political battles in the Supreme Court, whether it is Kerala or 'A' State or 'B' State. All this is to embarrass the State governments. To create some difficult situations for them," Chief Justice Kant said.

The Chief Justice said such petitions were meant as an "impediment to election campaigning".

Centre notifies panel to clear pending CAA applications in Bengal

Several Matua community members have applied for citizenship, amid the SIR; the new panel is in addition to an existing empowered committee

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

Matua community members during a protest rally held in Kolkata in November 2025 against the SIR and the CAA . ANI

The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) on Friday notified another empowered committee comprising Census, postal and Intelligence Bureau (IB) officials to fast-track hundreds of pending citizenship applications under the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA), amid the special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in West Bengal.

Several people belonging to the Matua community, comprising Hindu Namasudras with roots in Bangladesh, have applied for citizenship under the CAA as their names are not in the 2002 electoral list, the threshold for the ongoing SIR exercise.

A government source said that although an empowered committee headed by the Director, Census Operations exists with the mandate to process CAA applications in all States, another such panel headed by the Deputy Registrar-General, Directorate of Census Operations, West Bengal has been notified only for the State in the wake of a deluge of citizenship requests. "This is an additional committee that will process and fast-track CAA applications in West Bengal," said the source.

The committee will comprise an officer in the Subsidiary Intelligence Bureau not below the rank of Deputy Secretary, two Under Secretary rank officials to be nominated by the Foreigners Regional Registration Office and the National Informatics Centre of West Bengal and the Postmaster General of the State. A representative from the office of the Principal Secretary (Home) or Additional Chief Secretary (Home) of the West Bengal government and a representative of jurisdictional Divisional Railway Manager would be special invitees, the notification said.

On March 11, 2024, days ahead of the announcement of the General Election, the MHA notified the Citizenship Amendment Rules, 2024 enabling the implementation of the CAA, four years after the legislation was passed.

Earlier, members of the Matua community had been hesitant about applying under the CAA as they came from Bangladesh without any documents, but after the SIR was announced, there has been a significant increase in such requests.

Poll panel dragged back to reality by SC order: Trinamool

Shiv Sahay Singh
KOLKATA

Mamata Banerjee

The Trinamool Congress on Friday described the Supreme Court's order on assigning judicial officers to complete the special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in West Bengal a huge victory for the people of the State.

During the hearing, a Bench comprising Chief Justice Surya Kant, and Justices Joymalya Bagchi and N.V. Anjaria directed the Calcutta High Court to depute serving and former judicial officers to help with the SIR.

"Today marks a historic demolition of @ECISVEEP's bloated arrogance. The CEC once strutted around like an untouchable overlord, convinced his word was final. That delusion has been shattered into oblivion. Roll observers had been stonewalling and parking legitimate claims, all while plotting to erase legitimate voters in a bid to rig the game for their political masters. But the Supreme Court just delivered the knockout punch," the Trinamool posted on social media.

The development assumes significance as the SIR process is yet to be completed in West Bengal.

The Supreme Court directed the poll body to publish the processed list of electoral rolls on February 28.

The ruling party said all claims, objections, and logical discrepancy cases will now be handled by impartial judicial officers appointed by the Chief Justice of the Calcutta High Court. "This is a blow to an Election Commission that ditched its sacred constitutional duty and morphed into a partisan hit squad serving BJP's vested interests. They've been dragged back to reality and reminded that the sovereign power of the people crushes the petty ambitions of those in power," the Trinamool said.

Trinamool Congress chairperson and West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee had earlier appeared before the Supreme Court on the matter involving SIR in the State.

India took part as 'observer' in the first Board of Peace for Gaza meeting, says MEA

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

Randhir Jaiswal

A day after an Indian diplomat participated in the first meeting of the Board of Peace for Gaza in Washington D.C., the Ministry of External Affairs said India was there as an "observer".

The official spokesperson of the Ministry, Randhir Jaiswal, reiterated India's position on the Palestinian issue and said India stood for a "sovereign, independent, and viable state of Palestine based on 1967 borders".

"India attended the Board of Peace meeting held in Washington D.C. as an observer. India has supported the Gaza Peace Plan initiative of President Trump and the efforts underway due to UNSC resolution 2803," he said in response to a question on India's presence in the meeting. India was represented by Deputy Chief of Mission of the Indian Embassy in Washington D.C. Namgya Khampa.

Mr. Jaiswal explained India's multiple moves on the Israel-Palestine conflict over the past few days that received sharper focus because of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's upcoming visit to Israel.

Earlier this week, India opted out of a joint appearance of member nations at the UN criticising Israel for its continued expansion of West Bank settlements. India did not initially sign a statement critical of Israel that was endorsed by 85 member states. But, more than 24 hours later, India signed the statement that was read out by the Palestinian Ambassador to the UN criticising the Israeli government for its policy of expanding settlements in the West Bank.

Israel's recent decisions asking existing Palestinian landholders of West Bank for proof of ownership and facilitating outside settlers to acquire land in the enclave have drawn strong condemnation from multiple quarters.

Ahead of PM's visit, Netanyahu calls India a 'gigantic power'

Press Trust of India
JERUSALEM

Describing India as a "gigantic power", Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has said that Israel is "tightening alliances" with its allies, as he mentioned Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Jerusalem next week.

Prime Minister Modi is expected to arrive in Israel on February 25 on a two-day visit during which he is likely to address the Knesset (Parliament) and meet Mr. Netanyahu and President Isaac Herzog.

Mr. Netanyahu made the comments while addressing the Israel Defence Forces (IDF) Cadets' Graduation Ceremony in Bahad 1 (IDF Officers School), about 190 kms south of Jerusalem, on Thursday.

After describing valiant efforts by the Israeli army over the years, Mr. Netanyahu said how the country goes out and takes "pre-emptive measures" against the evil, and, therefore, will act time and again "to neutralise the risks in the area, as necessary."

'Tighten alliances'

"We will also act to tighten alliances with our allies. Next week, the Prime Minister of India will visit the country - a gigantic power," Mr. Netanyahu said.

"And of course, you know that a few days ago I returned from another diplomatic visit, the seventh in number since the election of President [Donald] Trump to a second term, where I met with the greatest friend of the State of Israel - U.S. President Trump," he added.

U.S. Secretary of State to visit India 'very soon': envoy

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio will visit India in the next few months, U.S. envoy to India Sergio Gor said on Friday.

"I don't have exact dates, but Secretary Rubio will be travelling to India very soon, in a matter of months. And so that'll be part of the Quad, along with many other initiatives," Mr. Gor said on the sidelines of the AI Impact Summit in New Delhi.

He also described the Quad (comprising India, the U.S., Japan, and Australia) coalition as an important grouping for cooperation among its member states. Further, the Ambassador said that the India-U.S. trade deal is set to be inked soon, taking bilateral ties to the next level.

Assam will be made free of floods, 'infiltrators': Shah

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah during the launch ceremony of Vibrant Villages Programme-II, in Nathanpur on Friday. ANI

Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday urged the people of Assam to re-elect the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and give it another chance to make the State free of floods and "infiltrators".

He made this appeal after launching the second phase of the Vibrant Villages Programme (VVP) at Nathanpur, a village on the India-Bangladesh border in southern Assam's Barak Valley. While the first phase of the VVP, launched in 2023, was concentrated along the China border, the second phase covers India's borders with Bangladesh, Bhutan, Myanmar, Nepal, and Pakistan.

Mr. Shah said the Centre was committed to developing every border village in the country to ensure no border resident migrates due to a lack of amenities, and no "infiltrator" sneaks in.

"The infiltrators continued to come because Congress kept the borders open. These infiltrators grabbed the jobs of youth, the lands of villages, and made efforts to change the population pattern," he said. "We have secured and developed Assam. Vote us to power, and we will drive out the infiltrators who entered Assam during Congress rule, and work to make Assam flood-free," Mr. Shah said, repeating a commitment similar to what was said while campaigning for the 2021 elections.

People have taken note of BJP's divisive politics: Priyanka

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

Priyanka Gandhi

Congress MP Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Friday advised Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma to speak about his accomplishments and plans for the next five years instead of lamenting his inability to become Congress Chief Minister 10 years ago.

On Tuesday, Mr. Sarma claimed that Rahul Gandhi vetoed his mother Sonia Gandhi's offer to make him the Chief Minister in 2014. Tarun Gogoi, the father of State Congress president Gaurav Gogoi, was the Chief Minister at that time.

"One has to accept that politics involves many decisions...What can I say if he is still thinking about decisions taken a decade ago?" Ms. Vadra said.

She said the people had taken note of Mr. Sarma's and the BJP's "divisive, negative politics". Referring to the Chief Minister's attack on Mr. Gogoi and his family, she said such attacks must serve as an example of what was wrong in Indian and Assamese politics.

"No one's children or family should be targeted, especially when the allegations are false," she said.

Cong. to organise farmers' meetings on India-U.S. pact

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Congress on Friday said it would organise a series of *Kisan Sammelans* or farmers' meet across five States and one Union Territory to highlight the "adverse" impact of the India-U.S. trade agreement on farmers.

The decision was taken after Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi met with Pradesh Congress Committee chiefs and Congress Legislature Party leaders of Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Maharashtra.

Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu was also present.

The first such *sammelan* will be held in Bhopal on February 24

The first such sammelan will be held in Bhopal on February 24, to be followed by one at Yavatmal in Maharashtra on March 7. The third sammelan will be held at Sriganganagar of Rajasthan later in March.

"It is clear that in this TRAP DEAL, the Modi government has compromised the interests of farmers. This deal will directly impact cotton, soybean, maize farmers, and fruit and nut producers. To protect the rights of farmers, the Indian National Congress will organise a 'Kisan Sammelan' and take this issue to every village," Mr. Kharge said in a X post.

Briefing reporters, Congress communications chief Jairam Ramesh said Mr. Kharge and Mr. Gandhi would be attending the first two kisan sammelans.

Mr. Ramesh described the trade agreement as a "surrender" by the Prime Minister, claiming that India was compelled to enter into the pact. He said the agreement would, in the first phase, directly affect cotton, soybean and maize farmers, as well as fruit and nut growers in the five States and in J&K.

Drawing a parallel with the agitation against the three farm laws, Mr. Ramesh said the Congress would work with farmer organisations to highlight "the threat posed by the trade deal to the livelihoods of lakhs of farmers".

India joins U.S.-led tech alliance to build resilient supply chains

The Pax Silica seeks to build a common supply chain for electronics, critical minerals to withstand disruptions by China; the grouping, which held its inaugural summit in December, includes Canada, Japan, South Korea, and European Union

Aroon Deep
NEW DELHI

New bond: IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw (second from right) with U.S. envoy Sergio Gor (centre) and others at an event to mark India's entry into the Pax Silica initiative in New Delhi on Friday. PTI

India joined the Pax Silica group on Friday, teaming up with the United States and other countries that have sought to build a common supply chain for electronics and critical minerals.

At an event during the AI Impact Summit, Union Minister for Electronics and Information Technology Ashwini Vaishnaw signed a document formally including India in the group, along with U.S. Undersecretary of State for economic growth, energy, and the environment Jacob Helberg.

Mr. Helberg has been a major force in creating the group, which had its inaugural summit at the U.S. Institute of Peace in Washington, D.C. last December.

In a brief impassioned address on Friday, Mr. Helberg asserted that "we have allowed the foundations of our economic security to drift", adding that it was important for countries like India and the U.S., who had both rejected "a king oceans away", to reclaim sovereignty over their supply chains.

Pax Silica's other signatories include Canada, Japan, South Korea, and the European Union. They have sought to make their supply chains more resilient to shocks from China, which has exercised its leverage over the last year as the sole source of refined rare earth elements, to gain an upper hand in trade negotiations with the U.S.

"We have a very large talent pool, and we have conducted our foreign policy in a manner that builds trust," Mr. Vaishnaw said on the sidelines of the summit.

'Say no to blackmail'

"We find ourselves grappling with a global supply chain that is massively overconcentrated," Mr. Helberg said. "We watch as our friends and allies face daily threats of economic coercion and blackmail, forced to choose between their sovereignty and their prosperity. We have seen the lights of a great Indian city extinguished by a keystroke from across the border," he added, in an apparent reference to alleged sabotage that caused a blackout in Mumbai in October 2020.

"And we've seen our friends denied essential minerals simply because a leader dared to speak her mind," he said, in an apparent reference to China's recent restrictions on rare earth element exports as a response to Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi's remarks on Taiwan. "So today, as we signed the Pax Silica Declaration, we say no to weaponised dependency, and we say no to blackmail," Mr. Helberg said.

Youth Cong. workers hold protest at AI summit over U.S. trade deal; 4 arrested

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Making a point: Youth Congress workers stage a protest during the India AI Impact Summit in New Delhi on Friday. PTI

A group of Indian Youth Congress (IYC) workers on Friday staged a "shirts-off" protest in an exhibition hall at the AI Impact Summit venue in New Delhi over the India-U.S. trade deal, triggering sharp political reactions.

The police arrested four IYC office-bearers and detained 15 other protesters, including IYC national president Uday Bhanu Chib and national general secretary Vikas Chhikara.

The protest unfolded around half past noon in Hall-5, when the IYC workers removed their T-shirts, turned them inside out to display printed slogans and images, and raised slogans, leading to a commotion.

Later at a press conference, Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said he rejected "the negative politics that the Congress sought to play" by attempting to disrupt the event.

The BJP accused Rahul Gandhi, the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, of being a "traitor" for allegedly orchestrating the protest to "malign the country's image".

Defending the Youth Congress, Pawan Khera, who heads the Congress's media and publicity department, asserted that protests were meant to be held where they draw attention.

"A compromised Prime Minister and his incentivised media started saying that the protests took place at the wrong place. The country has been tarnished. So, where do we protest? Should they protest at somebody's basement? Protests take place where the media's cameras are," he said.

BJP MP and spokesperson Sambit Patra alleged that the protest was planned at Mr. Gandhi's residence in the presence of former Congress chief Sonia Gandhi and senior leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra. He accused them of "treachery".

"This is not an issue between two political parties, but between the idea of India and those who espouse the idea against India," he said at a press conference, describing the protest as "topless, brainless, shameless".

Mr. Patra said the IYC workers pre-registered for the event, obtained barcodes, and entered the venue in a "premeditated" manner. Alleging that it was a deliberate attempt to tarnish India's reputation, he sought an explanation from Mr. Gandhi and Ms. Vadra.

Mr. Patra said the AI Impact Summit was not a "BJP event" but a global gathering on a huge scale hosted by India.

The summit represented India's technological future, its start-ups, its youth, and its aspirations. The country's Gen Z, especially those in the start-up and AI ecosystem, had taken note of the protest and would never forgive the Congress, he added.

'Not against AI summit'

In a statement before he was detained by the police, the IYC president stated that peaceful protest was a democratic right. "We are not against the AI summit. We are against any compromise with India's interests. When farmers are being compromised, and youth are pushed into unemployment and hate politics, should we remain silent?" Mr. Chib asked.

"The youth of this country will no longer remain silent. 'PM is compromised' is not just a slogan; it reflects the anger of millions of unemployed young people. This trade deal with the U.S. is a betrayal of our farmers and the public, benefiting only America," he added.

'AI summit drew $250-billion investment commitments'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Calling the AI Impact Summit a "landmark moment for India's global leadership in Artificial Intelligence", IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw on Friday said the summit attracted $250 billion investments in AI infrastructure and saw more than five lakh visitors.

The summit ended on Friday, but the expo will remain open till Saturday.

Mr. Vaishnaw said the summit also got $20 billion in deep tech venture commitments. "Now we will take our IndiaAI Mission to the next level, where we will go to a totally new level of [large language] models, a new level of common compute, and a new level of safety," he said.

Mr. Vaishnaw said a 'Delhi Declaration' for AI among several countries would be unveiled on Saturday. Over 70 countries had signed it, he said, adding that he hoped to surpass the tally achieved in Paris last year at the AI Action Summit. Ministerial delegations from some countries are still taking a call on signing the pact.

The Minister appeared to indicate that both the U.S. and China had signed the declaration. "All the major countries have already signed," he said. "If you feel that somebody has not signed, you need not speculate on that. All the people who matter in AI, they have all signed."

The summit was held at the sprawling Bharat Mandapam, with more than 500 individual sessions and over 400 exhibitors with booths. It was held in India after similar summits in the U.K., Paris, and Seoul.

The event was significantly oversubscribed, with attendees overwhelming organisers in the first few days, leading to logistical issues that eased up later in the week as attendance became more manageable.

Modi holds talks with UN chief, other world leaders

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday held bilateral talks with top leaders of Mauritius and Slovakia.

Mr. Modi also held a meeting with UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres and discussed how the global body can play a "constructive role" in making use of artificial intelligence inclusive.

The Prime Minister met Mr. Guterres and other leaders on the sidelines of the AI Impact Summit.

Following his talks with Mauritius Prime Minister Navinchandra Ramgoolam, Mr. Modi said both sides would continue to work in close cooperation to ensure regional security and prosperity.

Mr. Modi also described Mauritius as a vital partner in India's MAHASAGAR vision.

Mr. Modi said he and Slovak President Peter Pellegrini discussed bilateral cooperation in areas of defence, space and digital public infrastructure.

PM meets Sri Lankan President, discusses areas of cooperation

Meera Srinivasan
COLOMBO

Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Sri Lankan President Anura Kumara Dissanayake. PTI

Meeting on the sidelines of the AI Impact Summit in New Delhi, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Sri Lankan President Anura Kumara Dissanayake "took stock" of progress in bilateral relations, according to the leaders's social media posts on Friday.

"Strengthening friendship with a valued neighbour! It was wonderful meeting President Dissanayake in Delhi. We took stock of the progress in India-Sri Lanka relations in the recent times. We also discussed avenues of cooperation in areas such as energy, connectivity, infrastructure, healthcare, skilling, culture, blue economy and more," Mr. Modi said in his post on X.

Sri Lankan President Dissanayake said the leaders held "extensive discussions on strengthening our historic ties and expanding economic, trade, and cultural cooperation". Further, he expressed gratitude for India's "exceptional support" during the recent Cyclone Ditwah.

The messages had no mention of any specific India-backed project, or of the Tamil question that India has periodically raised with the Sri Lankan leadership in the past.

The leaders met less than two months after External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar visited Colombo in the wake of Cyclone Ditwah. In addition to supporting Sri Lanka in immediate relief and rescue efforts, India pledged a "reconstruction package" of $450 million.

AI can help India achieve Viksit Bharat goal, but poses high risk to jobs: IMF chief

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Kristalina Georgieva

IMF Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva on Friday said artificial intelligence could lift global growth by 0.8% and help India achieve the Viksit Bharat goal, but poses significant risk of displacement of jobs and financial stability.

While being optimistic about the technology, Ms. Georgieva cautioned against "sugarcoating" the impact of AI and called for striking a balance between building and managing AI as a "force for good, or a force for evil".

"AI can lift up global growth by almost a percentage point. We say 0.8%. It would mean that the world would grow faster than it did before the COVID pandemic. And that is fantastic for creating more opportunities, more jobs. This is the magnitude that we see for India, and it would mean that India's Viksit Bharat is achievable," Ms. Georgieva said at the AI Impact Summit in New Delhi. She said AI creates potential for countries that go fast on digital infrastructure, skills, and adoption of AI, and countries must embrace the opportunities, while being mindful of the risks.

Three major risks

"I am very optimistic about AI. I'm also not naive, it brings significant risks," she said while listing out three major risks from AI.

First, it brings the risk of making countries and the world less fair as some countries will have the technology and others would not, and the other is the risk of financial stability, wherein AI could get loose and create havoc on financial markets.

Also, it brings the risk of displacement of jobs with no good thinking about how to help people find their place in the new AI economy.

"We calculated this risk as very high. We actually see the impact of AI on the labour market like a tsunami hitting it. Globally, 40% of jobs will be affected by AI, some enhanced, others eliminated. In emerging markets 40%, but in advance economies, 60%. And that is happening over a relatively short period of time," Ms. Georgieva said.

She said the IMF will continue to work with countries to understand what is happening in AI and then how to project it for policies for the future.

An IMF research on how AI is affecting the labour market showed that in United States, one in 10 jobs already requires additional skills and for those who have the skills, the job pays better.

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Vidyut Bhawan, Panchsheel Nagar, Makarwali Road, Ajmer-305004)

SHORT TERM "E" TENDRING INVITING TENDER NOTICE

"E"- TENDERING ARE INVITED FOR Supply of 3 Phase 16 KVA Distt. T/F **TN-2112,** 3 Phase 25 KVA Distt. T/F **TN-2113,** CRC Repair of (Ring main Unit) **TN-2114,** EMD and date of uploading /opening of tender and G.C.C. etc WILL be available at web site www.avvnl.com & http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in. **UBN:- AVV2526GLOB00539**

Raj.Samwad/C/25/20907 **Superintending Engineer (MM)**

APPOINTMENTS

Advertisement No. **25/2026**

Government of India
Public Enterprises Selection Board
invites applications for the post of

Director (Operations)
in
Chennai Petroleum Corporation Limited

Last date of submission of application by the applicants is by 15.00 hours on

13th March, 2026

Last date of forwarding of applications by the Nodal officers to PESB is by 17.00 hours on

23rd March, 2026

For details login to website
https://pesb.gov.in

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT & PANCHAYATI RAJ
(An Organisation of the Ministry of Rural Development, Govt. of India)
Rajendranagar, Hyderabad-500030

National Institute of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj (NIRDPR), which is the country's apex organization for training and research on various aspects of Panchayati Raj and Rural Development is implementing a National level Project for setting up of a School of Excellence in Panchayati Raj (SoEPR) at NIRDPR under RGSA. NIRDPR invites online applications from eligible candidates for the following contractual positions:

Sl. No	Name of the Position	No. of Positions	Remuneration Per Month (Rs.)
1	Associate Professor	2	2,25,000/-
2	Video Editor	1	50,000/-
3	Videographer	1	55,000/-
4	Training Manager	1	45,000/-
5	Accounts & Administrative Coordinator	2	40,000/-
6	Multi-Task Assistant	2	20,000/-

For Eligibility Criteria, Online submission of application and other details please visit: **http://career.nirdpr.in/**

Last date for submission of online application is **08.03.2026**

Advt.No.39/2025
File No: : SoEPR/ Recruitment/2025-26
Comp.no. 18614

Sd/-
Assistant Director Administration (Section-I)

Congress ally demands 'seats of its choice' for upcoming polls in Assam

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

A Congress ally in Assam, the Raijor Dal, has advised the Congress leadership to resolve the dispute over seat-sharing for the upcoming Assembly election.

Sivasagar MLA Akhil Gogoi, who heads Raijor Dal, said on Friday that he would write to the Congress leadership "for the last time" to resolve the differences. He urged the State party leadership to align with their outlook to save the alliance.

Mr. Gogoi said the Raijor Dal had demanded 15 seats in the proposed alliance arrangement, but the Congress was adamant about contesting 100 seats.

Assam has a total of 126 Assembly constituencies.

He added his party has so far received four constituencies of its choice.

Government of Uttarakhand, Department of Higher Education
No. 372709/XXIV-C-1/2026-E-33407/12(01)2012

Dehradun **Corrigendum** Dated 19 February, 2026

It is hereby informed that by advertisement number 370702/XXIV-C-1/2026 E-33407/12(01)2012 dated February 13, 2026, partial amendment is made in the post of Vice Chancellor at Sri Dev Suman University, Badshahithaul, Tehri Garhwal release as follows:-

1. **Serial No. 4**:- The Applicant/candidate who fulfill the qualification should apply online on the Samarth portal **URL https://vcrec.samarth.ac.in/** from the date of issue of advertisement till 6:00 PM on date 14.03.2026, attaching a copy along with all the documents to the Secretary, Department of Higher Education, Government of Uttarakhand, Office Room No. 13, Ist Floor, Subhash Chandra Bose Bhawan, Secretariat Complex, 04 Subhash Road, Dehradun through Speed post/Registered post. Applications received after the said period will not be considered.
2. **Serial No. 5**:- In case of any difficulty in applying online, applicant can contact by e-mail Id **vcselectionhighereducation@gmail.com**
3. **Serial No. 6**:- The point mentioned in number-5 of the previous advertisement dated 13.02.2026 should be read as point number 06.

Apart from the above amendments, the conditions of advertisement number 370702/XXIV-C-1/2026 E-33407/12(01)2012 dated February 13, 2026 will remain the same.

Dr. Ranjit Kumar Sinha, Secretary
Higher Education Department, Govt. of Uttarakhand

INBRIEF

Vinod Jakhar appointed new national president of NSUI

The National Students' Union of India (NSUI) on Friday announced that it has appointed Vinod Jakhar its new president. Mr. Jakhar was previously the NSUI Rajasthan president. In 2018-2019, he served as the president of the Rajasthan University Students Union. The Congress's student wing said in a statement that the process to select the new president began in September last year. It stated that dozens of applications were received, following which 15 candidates were shortlisted. In its statement, the NSUI expressed its gratitude to the outgoing president, Varun Choudhary.

NHAI likely to discontinue cash transactions at toll plazas

The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) may discontinue cash transactions at toll plazas from April 1, 2026, allowing payments only through FASTag or Unified Payments Interface (UPI). In a press statement, the NHAI said the move is aimed at improving lane throughput, reducing congestion, and enhancing transparency in toll collections. The NHAI has already achieved 98% toll transactions through FASTag. Under the National Highways Fee Rules, vehicles entering a toll plaza without a functional FASTag are charged twice the applicable user fee if they pay in cash. However, highway users who choose to pay via UPI are charged 1.25 times the user fee for their respective vehicle category.

PAC pulls up govt. for slow implementation of SANKALP scheme

Panel questions govt. over absence of a central monitoring mechanism and gaps in due diligence; CAG had flagged shortfalls in financial progress

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The scheme seeks to strengthen short-term skill training through better institutional frameworks and industry linkage. FILE PHOTO

The Public Accounts Committee (PAC) of Parliament, chaired by senior Congress leader K.C. Venugopal, on Friday criticised the government for what members described as "lackadaisical" implementation of the Skill Acquisition and Knowledge Awareness for Livelihood Promotion (SANKALP) scheme, a flagship programme of the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship.

The panel was examining a Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) report that highlighted significant delays and shortfalls in both financial and physical progress under the scheme. According to the CAG, only 44% of the budgeted provision for SANKALP was disbursed between 2017-18 and 2023-24 (as of October 2023). The audit also flagged weak adherence to implementation guidelines and a sluggish pace of execution across components.

Approved by the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs in October 2017 with a total outlay of ₹4,455 crore, SANKALP was designed to strengthen short-term skill training through better institutional frameworks, enhanced industry linkages, and targeted inclusion of marginalised communities.

The scheme was slated to be financed through a World Bank loan of ₹3,300 crore, State leverage of ₹660 crore, and industry leverage of ₹495 crore.

Launched in 2018, SANKALP was originally scheduled for completion by March 2023 but was later extended to March 2024. Against the first tranche of the agreed loan of $250 million, the Bank disbursed ₹1,606.15 crore (86%), but the Ministry utilised only ₹850.71 crore as of December 2023.

The CAG attributed part of the delay to "non-preparedness" within the Ministry before the commencement of the loan period. The PAC members echoed this during the meeting, questioning the government over the absence of a central monitoring mechanism and gaps in due diligence.

Gujarat govt. to amend marriage registration rules

Abhinay Deshpande
AHMEDABAD

According to the norms proposed, applicants will have to furnish contact details of parents

The Gujarat government on Friday announced that it would amend the rules under the Gujarat Registration of Marriages Act, stating that the move was intended to plug procedural loopholes and prevent alleged misuse of the existing system.

Deputy Chief Minister Harsh Sanghavi, speaking in the Assembly, said the government had received representations from individuals and social organisations seeking stricter norms in the marriage registration process.

He alleged that "innocent girls are being trapped" and claimed that such practices were spreading in society. Referring to what he described as "love jihad", Mr. Sanghavi termed it a "cultural invasion" and said the government would strengthen safeguards through amendments to the rules.

The government has invited objections and suggestions from the public for 30 days. "People and organisations can submit their suggestions and objections on the Health and Family Welfare Department's website. The new rules will be finalised after considering the responses received," he said.

According to a document later shared by the Minister's office, the proposed amendments lay down a revised procedure for marriage registration. Applications will have to be submitted before the Assistant Registrar along with a declaration stating whether the bride and groom have informed their parents about the marriage.

Applicants will also be required to furnish the names, addresses, Aadhaar numbers and contact details of their parents. As per the proposal, parents of both parties will be informed within 10 working days once the Assistant Registrar is satisfied with the application.

The Assistant Registrar will then forward the application to the Registrar of the concerned district or taluk. The marriage will be registered 30 days after the Registrar is satisfied that all prescribed requirements have been fulfilled.

Mani Shankar Mukhopadhyay

Bengali author Shankar passes away in Kolkata at 92

Shrabana Chatterjee
KOLKATA

Veteran Bengali author Mani Shankar Mukhopadhyay, popularly known as Shankar, passed away on Friday at the age of 92.

He had been undergoing treatment in a Kolkata hospital for age-related ailments.

A towering figure in Bengali literature, Mr. Shankar authored several novels, including *Chowringhee*, *Jana Aranya*, and *Seemabaddha*. All three were made into films, with *Chowringhee* becoming particularly iconic. *Jana Aranya* and *Seemabaddha* were adapted for the screen by Satyajit Ray.

His stories mostly revolved around the lives of common people.

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee said it was "the fall of one of the brightest stars in the world of Bengali literature".

Hats off to U.S. Supreme Court for striking down Trump's tariff strategy, says Congress

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The Congress on Friday hailed the U.S. Supreme Court decision striking down President Donald Trump's global tariffs and said the American system of checks and balances still seemed to be working.

In a post on X, Congress general secretary (communications) Jairam Ramesh said, "Hats off to the U.S. Supreme Court for striking down President Trump's entire tariff strategy! Quite an amazing decision given its ideological composition." "A 6-3 verdict is decisive. The American system of checks and balances still seems to be working," he said.

Jairam Ramesh

Senior Congress leader P. Chidambaram demanded that the government must explain the impact of the judgment on the "deal" that was announced on February 6 between the U.S. and India.

Mr. Chidambaram said he had stated that if the Supreme Court struck down Mr. Trump's imposition of tariffs, the result would be that the U.S. and India would revert to the *status quo ante* of before April 2, 2025.

"Meanwhile, the U.S. has extracted several concessions from India without conceding any. What will happen to those concessions? The joint statement announced Zero tariff on many goods that the U.S. will export to India; that India intends to import $500 billion worth of goods from the U.S.; that India will not buy Russian oil; that India will address the non-tariff barriers to U.S. goods, and so on," the former Finance Minister said.

"What will happen to those promises? An Indian team is now in the U.S. to finalise the text of the Framework Agreement. What will the team do now?" Mr. Chidambaram asked.

The U.S. Supreme Court on Friday struck down President Donald Trump's far-reaching global tariffs.

New IIT-M technique to accurately measure blood clotting time will help implant makers

Ramya Kannan
CHENNAI

Researchers at the Indian Institute of Technology, Madras have secured a patent for a technique that uses changes in reflected light on the surface of implants to detect blood clot formation.

While it will allow manufacturers to use this technique while researching the viability of materials to be used for mplants, it also could also be used to test water purity, among other applications, the researchers claimed.

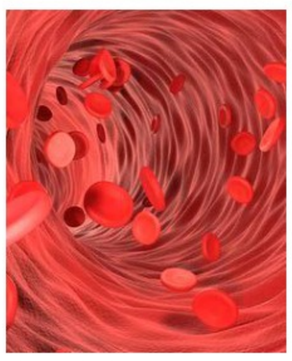
Improving clot testing

Haemocompatibility is the ability of a material or medical device to interface with blood without inducing adverse reactions, including clotting. It is an important parameter to be considered before developing any material to fashion a device – including stents, heart valves and catheters – that will come into contact with blood.

The haemocompatibility test also helps to plan for and titrate the dose of anticoagulation medicine to be given to a patient, post surgery. This is where IIT-M researchers have stepped in, to offer an optics-based solution to improve the accuracy of this test.

Subhashree Mishra, Govinda Chandra Behera, Vignesh Muthuvijayan, and Somnath Chanda Roy described the technique in an article published in the journal *Review of Scientific Instruments*.

"When blood comes into contact with a foreign material (as used in implants) it begins to clot. When we plan to build implants, we need to check how much time blood is taking to clot over the foreign device. Despite several technological advancements in biomedical devices, issues related to thrombosis remain a persistent challenge," explained Ms. Mishra, an IIT-M research scholar.



This method is a optics-based solution to improve accuracy of haemocompatibility test.

The two techniques in use today – the mechanical tilting method, and the free haemoglobin method – are not precise, she said.

"We set out to address the shortcomings of the conventional techniques to measure blood clotting," she added. Researchers used the optics to measure this blood clotting time.

"The surface of any implantable device will have a reflective surface. When blood touches this surface, and the blood clotting process begins, the surface becomes turbid, and the reflectivity of the surface will change. When it does, it will trigger a change in voltage in a connected, highly sensitive photodetector," Ms. Mishra said, adding that the time taken for this "voltage change" corresponds to clotting time. "The results, from our study, were accurate; and even milliseconds are counted," she added.

"We received the patent for this technique last year," IIT-M Physics professor Dr. Roy said. "We are at the initial stage of discussions with manufacturers. This will enable them to quantitatively screen materials for blood compatibility at the research stage. It can help them distinguish between materials that may be similar but behave very different during clot formation, and has the potential to significantly reduce clot-related risks for patients," he added.

Wider applications

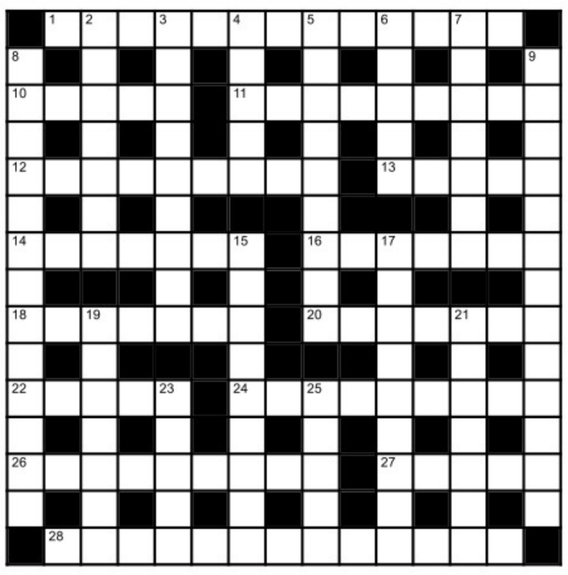
The team is also looking at deploying the technique for other real-world applications, Dr. Roy said, primarily to gauge the purity of water. "With a substrate, and a few changes, it will be able to check even trace impurities in water. There will be clear industry uses for this also," he added.

TH CROSSWORD + 14723

(set by Arden)

Solve this puzzle online and access more puzzles at *https://thehindu.com/crosswords*

SCAN TO PLAY



1 Fans to fund him, perhaps to act in movies (6,7)
10 To begin with, lot of customers are located in the neighbourhood (5)
11 Safety barriers on deck — from bottom to top crew not happy (9)
12 Cut two phases — terrible working here (9)
13 Whiff of a party in our midst (5)
14 Carol allowed a vest (7)
16 Advance working permits (7)
18 Run for example to get a job and come back (7)
20 Part of main deck originally used — not while in the middle of a storm (7)
22 It's a tedious thing to send back the Irish police (5)
24 Power — a lot represented in a game (5,4)
26 Joint holders — title to cover unfinished game with tennis sides (9)
27 Rewrite epilogue — no crude oil to encourage (3,2)
28 Major hold over corruption is saturnism (4,9)

Down

2 In other words a clue acquires new name — it's filthy (7)
3 Everyone's taken in by latest fashion — can't believe them (4,5)
4 Cannot change part of score (5)
5 Issue is not on season (9)
6 Give up force, otherwise leave (5)
7 Fat nude lady and I sit for a photograph (7)
8 Students find it difficult to understand leftist ideology (5,8)
9 Camaraderie and sixth sense — tried out before cops arrest robber finally (6,2,5)
15 Arranged another date, now OK for some martial arts (3,4,2)
17 Writer to persist with Arthur's father (9)
19 Dugout for a religious crook (7)
21 Rising ego in a sweep — pertains to the highest point (7)
23 Trained to help me inside (5)
25 Jobs for Kelvin in a foreign news agency (5)

SUDOKU

	5						8	
		4		9	2	1		
2					8			9
			3		5	9		1
	7						2	
4		1	8		6			
9			6					8
		8	7	1		3		
	4						9	

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★☆☆

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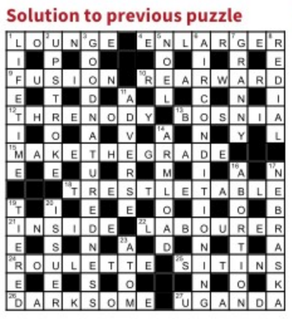
Solution to previous puzzle



Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

3	9	7	1	5	6	4	8	2
8	5	4	7	9	2	3	6	1
1	6	2	8	3	4	5	7	9
4	2	1	6	7	3	9	5	8
9	8	6	4	2	5	7	1	3
7	3	5	9	8	1	2	4	6
2	7	8	5	6	9	1	3	4
5	1	9	3	4	8	6	2	7
6	4	3	2	1	7	8	9	5

FAITH

The debt of devotion

People experience difficulties and problems in one form or the other throughout life. From dawn to dusk, every individual yearns for something or the other in their material existence. Poor Kuchela was sent by his wife to meet Lord Krishna, his childhood friend, in the hope that Krishna would remove his extreme poverty. But did Lord Krishna not already know Kuchela's miserable condition?

Kuchela undertook the long journey on foot, indifferent to hunger and fatigue, and unmindful of the thorns that pierced his feet along the way. Later, when Rukmini, the consort of Lord Krishna, washed His feet, she noticed the very same thorn marks on them– marks borne by Krishna Himself, sharing the suffering endured by Kuchela during his arduous walk. A subtle question arises here: Why did Kuchela bring only pounded rice and nothing else? And should Lord Krishna bestow prosperity only after receiving that humble offering? In a discourse, Trichy Kalyanaraman explained this profound truth. When Kuchela and Krishna were students at the Sandheepini Gurukul, the acharya's wife once gave each of them a handful of pounded rice before sending them into the forest to collect twigs. Tormented by severe hunger, Kuchela consumed not only his share but also asked Krishna to part with His. From that moment, Kuchela became indebted – not to Krishna the friend, but to Krishna the Lord. By offering the same pounded rice on this occasion, Kuchela symbolically repaid that sacred debt. Deeply pleased with Kuchela's humility, gratitude, and unwavering devotion, Lord Krishna then showered him with immeasurable prosperity – without Kuchela ever asking for it.

INBRIEF

SBI talking to Japanese banks for acquisition financing: Setty

The country's largest public sector lender State Bank of India (SBI) is talking to Japanese banks regarding acquisition financing, said chairperson C.S. Setty. He said that the limit of such financing would be restricted to ₹94,000 crore in accordance with the RBI's regulations on the share of total tier-I capital that is to be accorded. Mr. Setty said that the standard operating procedure (SOP) for the initiative was yet to be framed to be taken to the board for approval.

LIC increases holding in Cipla to 9% in less than 3 months

State-owned Life Insurance Corporation of India has increased its holding in drugmaker Cipla from 7% to 9% in less than three months. The country's largest institutional investor acquired more than 1.64 crore shares, through open market purchases, between November 27 and February 18, a filing by Cipla on Friday showed. LIC had over four months till November last year raised its holding in the drugmaker from 5.025% to 7.055%.

Ekki Homa launches sewage pumps for the Indian market

Ekki Homa, a joint venture of Coimbatore-based Ekki Group and Germany's Homa Pumpenfabrik, has launched the Linus range of sewage pumps. Kanishka Arumugam, co-chief executive officer of Ekki Homa, said that 75 dealers would be appointed in three years across the country and service centres would be set up to cater to the sewage pump segment. The JV would make pumps to cater primarily to the Indian market and also supply the products to Germany.

Net FDI into India negative for fourth straight month

Reserve Bank of India data show gross foreign direct investment into India stood at a five-month high, but was overshadowed by outflows

T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan
NEW DELHI

Net foreign direct investment (FDI) remained negative for the fourth consecutive month in December 2025, coming in at -$1.6 billion, due to repatriation by foreign companies in India and outward investments by Indian companies exceeding the amount of direct investment entering the country, an analysis of the latest data from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) show.

According to the RBI data, gross inflows of direct investment stood at a five-month high of $8.6 billion in December 2025, which was also 17.2% higher than in December 2024.

"Gross inward FDI remained robust in December, with Singapore, the Netherlands and Mauritius accounting for more than 80% of total inflows," the RBI noted in its monthly bulletin report. "The major recipient sectors were transport, manufacturing, computer services, and electricity and other energy generation, distribution and transmission."

However, while inflows witnessed relatively robust growth, outflows exceeded them. Repatriation and disinvestments by foreign companies operating in India increased to nearly $7.5 billion in December 2025, the highest since at least January 2021, the earlier period for which data is readily available.

Outward investments by Indian companies increased to $2.7 billion December, up 30.5% over December 2024 and 78% higher than in November 2025.

"For outward FDI, key destinations were Singapore, the U.S., the UAE, the U.K. and the Netherlands and the major sectors included financial, insurance and business services, and wholesale/retail trade, restaurants, and hotels," the report noted.

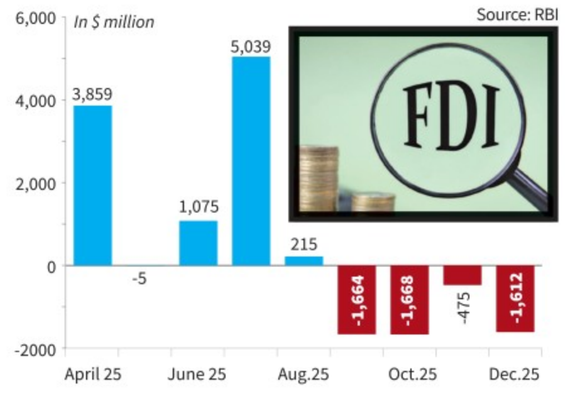
In earlier editions of the report, the RBI had said that uncertainty over the India-U.S. trade agreement and the 50% tariffs had led to investor hesitation. The data for December 2025 comes before the announcement of the Interim Agreement with the U.S. and the Free Trade Agreement with the European Union, and so likely also reflects this sentiment.

In this edition, the RBI noted that the announcement of both deals had led to portfolio investors returning to India.

"Foreign portfolio investments (FPIs) staged a comeback in February with investor sentiments turning around following the India-EU free trade agreement and the interim India-U.S. trade deal," the report said.

Red streak

Net FDI into India was negative for the fourth consecutive month in **Dec. 2025** due to record levels of repatriation by foreign companies in India



Govt. announces 7 additional measures under Export Promotion Mission

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

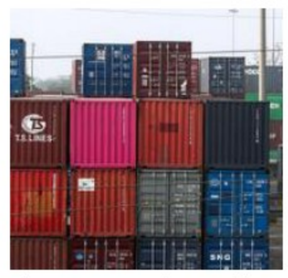
The Ministry of Commerce on Friday introduced seven additional measures under the Export Promotion Mission which is meant to strengthen micro, medium and small enterprises (MSMEs) to compete in global markets.

According to a statement from the Ministry, the interventions would seek to "address structural constraints faced by MSMEs including high cost of capital, limited access to diversified trade finance instruments, compliance burdens in international markets, logistics disadvantages, and barriers to market entry".

The measures seek to enable exporters to access new markets or those with higher element of risk, through varied risk-sharing mechanisms and credit instruments.

Aiming to provide credit assistance to e-commerce exporters, the provisions would offer structured credit facilities that would provide interest subvention and partial credit guarantees.

Among them, the direct e-commerce credit facility, meant to provide working capital as an avenue for risk mitigation, would provide support up to ₹50 lakh with 90% guarantee coverage. The overseas inventory credit facility would extend support of up to ₹5 crore with 75% guarantee coverage. For both, an interest subvention of 2.75% would be available. This is subject to entities not breaching the upper limit of ₹15 lakh per applicant in a year.



The measures seek to enable exporters to access new markets. REUTERS

"These structured mechanisms aim to strengthen exporter confidence and liquidity flows," the Ministry explained.

Welcoming the move, the Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO) said this would "significantly ease working capital pressures". "Lower cost of finance and improved liquidity cycles will enable MSMEs to price competitively, accept larger orders and strengthen their credibility with overseas buyers. Shared-risk credit mechanisms are also expected to encourage first-time exporters and promote product and market diversification," the industry body observed.

To support exporters institute warehouse overseas and fulfilment infrastructure, the latest measures will provide up to 30% of the approved project cost.

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	FRIDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	82,815	0.38
US Dollar	90.94	-0.28
Gold	1,59,500	0.53
Brent oil	71.35	-0.29

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	2160.80	4.10
Adani Ports	1511.50	-1.80
Apollo Hosp	7615.50	23.00
Asian Paints	2428.10	27.30
Axis Bank	1368.30	11.70
Bajaj Auto	9807.00	78.00
Bajaj Finserv	2058.50	25.30
Bajaj Finance	1030.20	13.15
Bharat Elec	441.15	5.80
Bharti Airtel	1977.40	-11.20
Cipla	1341.10	12.20
Coal India	423.55	7.40
Dr Reddys Lab	1280.40	-1.90
Eicher Motors	7936.50	39.50
Eternal Ltd.	269.45	-2.30
Grasim Ind	2832.80	-31.50
HCL Tech	1436.50	-13.90
HDFC Bank	911.85	-3.75
HDFC Life	728.65	-4.50
Hindalco	935.70	30.05
Hind Unilever	2314.50	35.20
ICICI Bank	1394.50	5.70
IntGlobeAvi	4854.60	39.50
Infosys	1353.20	-17.30
ITC	327.00	1.00
Jio Financial Services Ltd.	258.60	0.00
JSW Steel	1235.80	7.40
Kotak Bank	421.35	4.95
Kwality Walls	27.73	-0.86
L&T	4380.60	100.10
M&M	3412.80	-19.00
Maruti Suzuki	14977.00	74.00
Max Healthcare	1087.90	6.45
NestleIndia	1293.80	15.30
NTPC	372.95	9.75
ONGC	278.65	4.00
PowerGrid Corp	298.95	4.30
Reliance Ind	1419.40	9.90
SBI Life	2080.00	37.00
State Bank	1216.10	10.40
Shriram Finance Ltd.	1059.30	4.60
Sun Pharma	1724.40	11.00
TataConsumerProduct	1156.20	-4.30
Tata Steel	208.36	2.95
TCS	2686.20	8.30
Tech Mahindra	1456.90	-22.40
Titan	4236.40	38.20
Tata Motors PV	378.00	2.30
Trent Ltd.	4091.00	23.10
UltraTech Cement	12766.00	78.00
Wipro	209.86	-1.35

Punch.ev launched at ₹9.69 lakh

TATA.ev on Friday launched the new Punch.ev at ₹9.69 lakh (ex-showroom, Mumbai). TATA.ev is also offering the option of BaaS, starting at ₹6.49 lakh with a Battery EMI of ₹2.6/km.

'EU, U.S. trade deals to boost economy; growth resilient'

Press Trust of India
MUMBAI

India's free trade deals with the European Union and the U.S. are likely to play a significant role for the economy in the coming years, as foreign portfolio investments and the rupee staged a comeback post the two announcements, the RBI's bulletin said.

An article published in the Reserve Bank's February bulletin also emphasised the domestic economy remained resilient, with quarterly results of listed private companies showing strengthening of aggregate sales growth.

Industrial activity remained strong, and the services sector sustained its healthy growth.

Industrial activity remained strong, as per RBI bulletin.

The Union Budget 2026-27 reaffirmed the government's commitment to fiscal consolidation without diluting the focus on long-term growth, with stepped-up allocation towards capital expenditure, said the article on the state of the economy.

Novartis India rises 20% on ₹1,446-crore Swiss parent's exit

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

Novartis India (NIL) closed 20% higher at ₹996.50 each on the BSE on Friday after Swiss parent Novartis AG decided to offload its 70.68% holding in the listed arm to a consortium for almost ₹1,446 crore.

WaveRise Investments, ChrysCapital Fund X and Two Infinity Partners, acquiring the stake from the Swiss firm, consequently made a mandatory open offer to buy 26% public shareholding at ₹860.64 apiece aggregating to more than ₹552 crore.

.

Novartis AG had two years ago conveyed its intent to undertake a strategic review of its investment in NIL to unlock shareholding value.

On completion of the transaction, Novartis will complete its transformation into a pure-play innovative medicine firm and continues to adapt its footprint for efficient, sustainable long-term growth aligned with global strategy. It will not hold any shares in NIL. Consequently, the Indian entity's name may be changed.

Novartis Healthcare

Novartis will continue its presence in India via Novartis Healthcare, a wholly owned subsidiary of the Novartis group, which includes the commercial arm of Novartis in India, the Novartis Corporate Centre here and R&D teams.

Core sector growth slows to 4% in Jan., casts shadow on IIP

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Production growth of India's eight key infrastructure sectors slowed to a two-month low of 4% in January, as per official data.

It was 5.1% in January 2025 and 4.7% in December 2025. Crude oil and natural gas output recorded negative growth in January. Production of refinery products remained flat.

Production growth of coal and cement moderated to 3.1% and 10.7% during the month under review against 4.6% and 14.3%, respectively, in January 2025.

Coal, cement output growth moderated to 3.1% and 10.7%.

However, fertilizer, steel and electricity output recorded a positive growth during the month.

During the April-January of this fiscal, growth of core sector industries was down to 2.8%, compared with 4.5% a year earlier.

Aditi Nayar, chief economist, ICRA Ltd. said the slowdown was broad-based with as many as seven of the eight sectors seeing a deterioration in YoY growth performance.

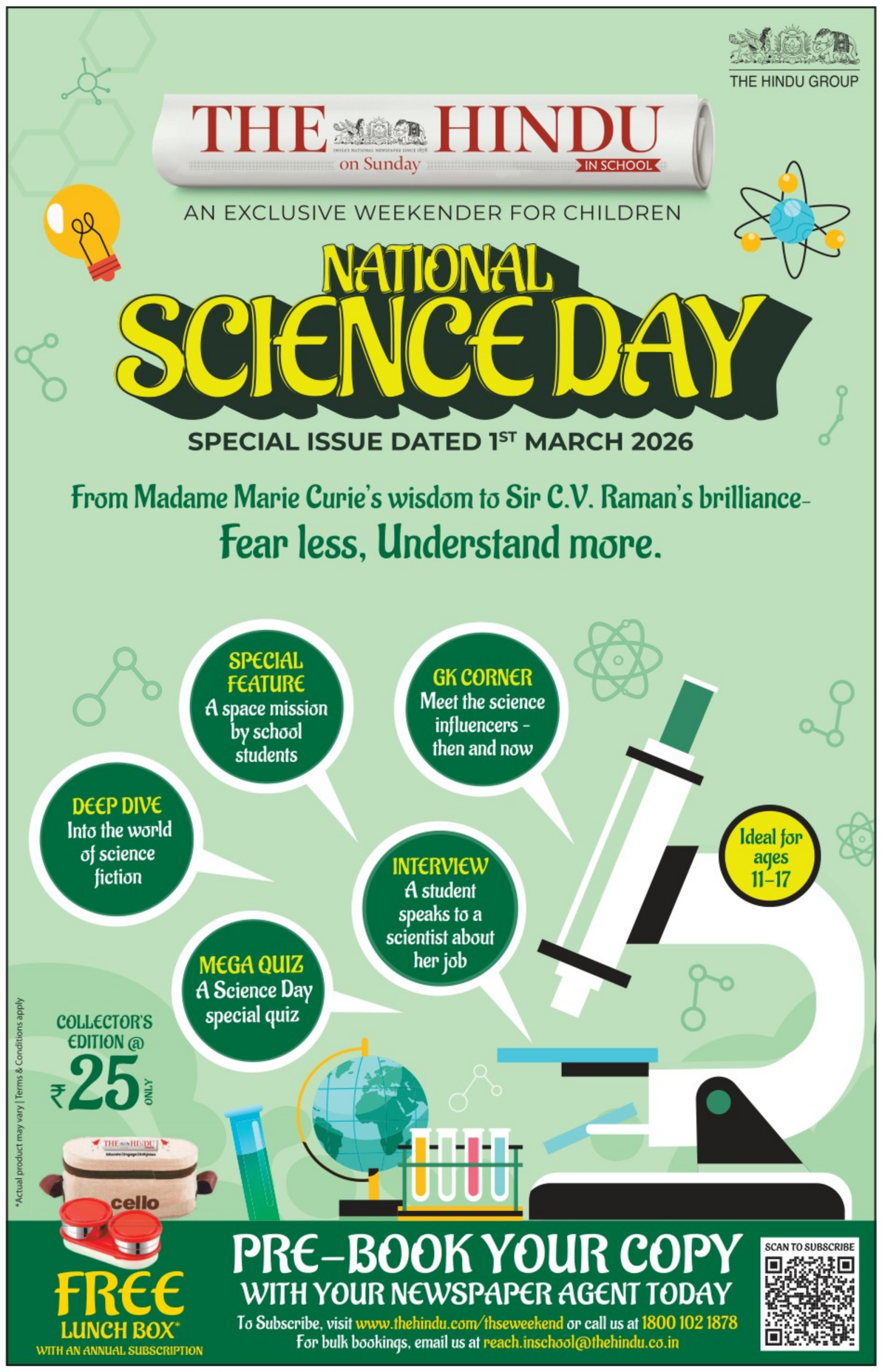
"Given the trends in core output, IIP (Index of Industrial Production) growth is likely to slow down in January, although we expect the growth in the non-core part of the IIP to continue to outperform core industries' output, as was the trend in Q3 FY2026.." Consequently, ICRA expects IIP growth to ease to 5.5% in January from 7.8% in December.

In FY27, Sai Life Sciences may hire 700 professionals

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

Sai Life Sciences plans to hire more than 700 scientific, technical and management professionals in 2026-27.

Setting the backdrop is a growing global demand for end-to-end drug discovery, development and manufacturing services and the need for the company to scale capabilities, the Hyderabad-based integrated contract research, development and manufacturing organisation (CRDMO) said on Friday.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WARSAW

Poland withdraws from treaty banning anti-personnel mines

AFP

Poland will use anti-personnel as well as anti-tank land mines to defend its eastern border against the growing threat from Russia, Poland's deputy Defence Minister said on Friday, as the country officially left the 1997 Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Treaty, also known as the Ottawa Convention. AP

GAZA CITY

Hamas says path for Gaza must begin with end to 'aggression'

AFP

Discussions on Gaza's future must begin with a total halt to Israeli "aggression", Hamas said after U.S. President Donald Trump's Board of Peace met for the first time. However, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has insisted that Hamas must disarm before any reconstruction begins. AFP

CARACAS

Venezuela's National Assembly passes long-awaited amnesty law

REUTERS

Venezuela's National Assembly on Thursday unanimously approved a long-awaited amnesty law that could free hundreds of political prisoners jailed for being government detractors. The Bill was signed by interim President Delcy Rodriguez, who pushed for the legislation under pressure from Washington. AFP

SEOUL

Kim lauds N. Korea's economy and regional standing at party meeting

REUTERS

North Korean leader Kim Jong-un lauded his nation's improving economy and regional standing as he opened the country's most important political event, the Workers' Party congress, where he is expected to set his domestic and foreign policy agenda for the next five years and further entrench his family's authoritarian rule. AP

'As dynamic economies, India, Brazil can't remain distant'

Bilateral trade between Brazil and India reached its peak in 2025, but it remains far below its true potential, says Brazilian President Lula da Silva, who is accompanied by the country's largest-ever business delegation of 600 representatives to the Brazil-India Business Forum, highlighting the role of private-sector collaboration in driving economic growth; Lula warns against 'digital colonialism'

INTERVIEW

Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva

Shobhan Saxena

Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva is in India on a four-day visit with the largest-ever delegation, underscoring the momentum in relations between the two countries. In an exclusive interview with *The Hindu*, President Lula responded to questions on a range of issues, from strengthening bilateral cooperation to navigating an increasingly uncertain global order. Edited excerpts:

During your visit to New Delhi, what concrete measures and agreements are expected to deepen and diversify trade between India and Brazil?

Bilateral trade between Brazil and India reached its highest level in 2025, but it remains far below its true potential. India has 1.4 billion people and Brazil has 215 million. It makes no sense for our trade to be only $15 billion. That is why significantly expanding our trade flows is one of the main objectives of this visit. We will sign several agreements to achieve this goal. We will sign agreements on critical minerals – the first of its kind to be signed by Brazil – and on small and medium-sized enterprises, a sector that generates millions of jobs. During my visit, I will also take part in the Brazil-India Business Forum, with 600 representatives from the private sectors of both countries. Because it is the private sector, through partnerships and joint projects, that will transform the excellent relationship we have with India into shared prosperity for our societies.

Brazil and India cannot remain distant. Two of the world's largest democracies, with extraordinarily diverse cultures and dynamic economies, have an obligation to build a much closer relationship. Prime Minister Narendra Modi and I are working towards that goal.

You are travelling with the largest Brazilian business delegation ever brought to India, along with several Ministers. What is the importance of India for Brazil's long-term economic strategy?

I often say that the answer to the crisis of multilateralism is more multilateralism. And the answer to trade wars is more international trade. Diversifying trade partnerships with both emerging and traditional economies is a central part of Brazil's strategy. In this, we have a strong convergence with India. This convergence now needs to translate into concrete results.

We in Mercosur have signed a partnership agreement with the European Union. Less than two weeks later, India did the same. We now need to make the expansion of the

AFP

Mercosur-India trade agreement a reality. We have complementary interests in areas such as biofuels, artificial intelligence, science and technology, defence, the space industry, and health. We both stand for fair, multilateral, open, and rules-based trade, anchored in the World Trade Organization (WTO). The futures of Brazil and India are closely linked.

You participated in the AI Impact Summit in Delhi. How can Brazil and India lead broader cooperation among Global South countries in the field of AI, ensuring equitable access to technology, joint development, and rules that serve their interests?

We must avoid a new form of colonialism: digital colonialism. The development of artificial intelligence is irreversible, but it cannot become a privilege of a few countries, nor a tool of manipulation in the hands of billionaires. Brazil and India are interested in an emancipatory artificial intelligence – one that reflects the face of the Global South, strengthens cultural diversity, and serves as a tool for peace, not war.

We need every chip, every algorithm, to carry the mark of social inclusion. To achieve this, we need intergovernmental governance of artificial intelligence. It is urgent that the United Nations be at the centre of this debate, and that all states have a seat at the table. Our countries have the conditions to be at the forefront of this agenda, as demonstrated by the AI Impact Summit organised by the Indian government.

Brazil has emphasised the importance of India's upcoming BRICS presidency in 2026. What are your expectations regarding India's leadership in the bloc?

Brazil handed over the BRICS presidency to India in 2026. I am confident that India's presidency will carry forward important Brazilian initiatives for cooperation within the bloc, in areas such as health and the fight against socially determined diseases, climate change, and artificial intelligence.

As for global governance, we are witnessing an unprecedented collapse of multilateralism. The paralysis of the United Nations and its Security Council has contributed to the rise in armed conflicts around the world, to levels not seen since the end of the Second World War.

BRICS has a very important role to play in this process. The group is a defender of multilateralism and has legitimacy in the debates on a renewed governance, in which the voice of the Global South carries weight.

Brazil and India agree that global governance institutions must reflect the new multipolar reality of the 21st century and effectively promote peace. We are countries that have traditionally advocated reform of the Council. It makes no sense, at this stage of the 21st century, for the Security Council not to include India, Brazil, and African countries as permanent members.

We fully support India's BRICS presidency in advancing these objectives.

The long-pending Mercosur-India trade agreement is expected to be discussed during your visit. Do you see this trip as a decisive moment to advance this framework?

When I took office again as President of Brazil, at the beginning of 2023, I made a commitment to open new markets and build trade partnerships around the world. In three years, we have opened more than 500 markets and, through Mercosur, signed important trade agreements with the European Union (EU), EFTA, and Singapore.

These agreements are multilateralism's response to protectionism and to the logic of trade wars that impoverish countries and increase inequality. Prime Minister Modi shares a very similar view to ours on the importance of trade agreements.

It is in this spirit that expanding the Mercosur-India Agreement, in force since 2009, is one of the priorities of my visit.

(For full interview, visit: newsth.live/Lula)

'Indian Americans mostly disapprove of Trump's performance in first year'

The Hindu Bureau

A significant majority of Indian Americans disapprove of U.S. President Donald Trump's first year job performance as per the results of a new survey, *Indian Americans in a Time of Turbulence*, released on February 19 by the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. However, the disapproval for Mr. Trump's job performance has not translated into gains for the Democratic Party, which, while having stronger support among Indian Americans relative to the Republican party, is witnessing lower levels of support from this demographic.

Just 29% of Indian Americans approved of Mr. Trump's performance – the same proportion compared to 2020. The results are based on the 2026 Indian American Attitudes Survey (IAAS), which surveyed the attitudes of 1,000 Indian American adults between November 25, 2025, and January 6, 2026. The survey data have a margin of error of +/- 3.6%.

In terms of party affiliation, the Democratic Party has seen a decline in support among Indian Americans from 52%(2020) to 48% (2024) and then to 46%(2026). The affiliation to the Republican Party, while on the up from 15% to 19% between 2020 and

Dismal data: Only 20% of Indian Americans approve of Donald Trump's handling of relations with India. AP

2024, has remained at 19% in 2026. More than a quarter or 29% of Indian Americans surveyed identified as Independent, up from 23% in 2020 and 25% in 2024, suggesting that the loss to the Democratic party in support has caused an increase in the share of Independents. The Indian American approval rates for Mr. Trump's first year in office are lower (disapproval rates are higher) compared to all Americans, for whom data was collected in a contemporaneous survey by YouGov.

Disapproval rates

Broken down by policy areas, the disapproval rates are 64% for immigration policies, 68% for domestic economic policy and 70% for international economic policy (trade, tariffs, sanctions).

However, there is a sharp contrast across party lines, i.e., among Indian Americans who are Republicans and those who are Democrats. A large majority of Republican Indian Americans, 76% people, approved of Mr. Trump's immigration policies and 62% approved of his international economic policies. Some 84% of Indian American Democrats disapproved of Mr. Trump's immigration policies, and 86% disapproved of his international economic policies.

Given the controversies and impact on the Indian American community of the administration's immigration policies, the survey looks at five areas: arresting undocumented immigrants who do not have a criminal record, conducting raids at the workplace, deporting immigrants to third countries, actions to end birthright citizenship and the $100,000 H-1B (skilled worker visas) fee for new petitions.

A sizeable majority of Democrats oppose all five categories of policies, while Republicans in general showed lower support for each of these than for immigration policy as a whole, though a majority of Indian American Republicans, more often than not, still supported these individual policies.

Relations with India

Only 20% of Indian Americans approve of Mr. Trump's handling of relations with India, while 55% disapprove. What is noticeable, as per the authors is that a quarter of respondents said "don't know" to this question, suggesting the issue is of limited importance to many Indian Americans. Approval for the handling of the India relationship was at 35% in 2020 at the end of the first Trump administration and 48% in 2024 at the end of the administration of former President Joe Biden.

Between 2024 and 2026, younger Indian Americans (18-29) shifted back to the Democrats, as per the survey. This is significant given the increased support for Mr. Trump in the November 2024 election from younger Americans. Those over 50 shifted towards the Republicans. Support for the Democratic party declined significantly among those without a college degree and remained stable for those with a college degree.

U.S. bases to be 'legitimate targets' if attacked, says Iran

Stanly Johny

In a letter to the United Nations, Iran has said it will not initiate any war, but if attacked, all regional bases, facilities and assets belonging to the "hostile forces" would be "legitimate targets" for retaliatory strikes.

Iran's UN Ambassador Amir Saeid Iravani, in the letter dated February 19, accused Washington of issuing "explicit public threat[s] of the use of force" and urged the United Nations to act urgently.

Citing U.S. President Donald Trump's February 18 social media post that American forces could use bases in Diego Garcia and Fairford in the event of a conflict with Iran, Mr. Iravani said there is a "a real risk of military aggression, the consequences of which would be catastrophic for the region and would constitute a grave threat to international peace and security".

He added: "In the event that it is subjected to military aggression, Iran will respond decisively and proportionately in the exercise of its inherent right of self-defence under Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations."

Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei had warned earlier this month that any attack on Iran would trigger a regional war. Iran and the

Ready to strike: A boat firing a missile during a military exercise by members of the IRGC and navy in the Persian Gulf. AFP

U.S. have held two rounds of talks this month, but failed to reach any breakthrough. The U.S. has built its largest military presence in West Asia since the 2003 Iraq invasion, while Iran has held two live fire drills in the Persian Gulf this month.

'Defensive response'

If Iran comes under attack, Mr. Iravani wrote in the letter, "all bases, facilities, and assets of the hostile force in the region would constitute legitimate targets in the context of Iran's defensive response... the United States would bear full and direct responsibility for any unpredictable and uncontrolled consequences."

The U.S. has at least 19 military bases across West Asia, many of which are in Persian Gulf countries. The headquarters of America's Fifth Fleet is in Bahrain, while the al-Udeid Air Base in Qatar, the largest U.S. base in the region, hosts the forward headquarters of U.S. Central Command.

'Violating UN Charter'

Iran also accused Washington of violating the UN Charter, particularly Article 2(4), which prohibits the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any state. It called on the Security Council to "fully utilise the Council's authority and good offices to ensure that the United States immediately ceases its unlawful threats of the use of force" and refrains from actions that could "lead to a military confrontation".

Iran's warning comes amid reports that Mr. Trump is considering air strikes against the Islamic Republic. The U.S. has already sent a host of offensive and defensive weapons to the region while preparing for a possible war.

Israeli settlers kill Palestinian American in West Bank, officials say

Associated Press
MUKHMAS

Israeli settlers in the occupied West Bank shot and killed a Palestinian American man during an attack on a village, the Palestinian Health Ministry and a witness said on Thursday.

Raed Abu Ali, a resident of Mukhmas, said a group of settlers came to the village on Wednesday where they attacked a farmer, prompting clashes after residents intervened. Israeli forces later arrived, and during the violence, armed settlers killed 19-year-old Nasrallah Abu Siyam and injured several others.

Mr. Abu Ali said that the Army shot tear gas, sound grenades and live ammunition. "When the settlers saw the Army, they were encouraged and started shooting live bullets," Mr. Abu Ali said.

The Palestinian Ministry of Health confirmed Abu Siyam's death from critical wounds sustained during the clash. The Israeli military said unnamed suspects shot at Palestinians, who were later evacuated for medical treatment.

Abu Siyam's mother said he was an American citizen, making him the second Palestinian American person to be killed by Israeli settlers in less than a year.

WILL GET IT DONE

New Zealand confident of adapting to slower surfaces, says Chapman

FILE PHOTO: VIJAY SONEJI

New Zealand can adapt quickly to switching to Sri Lankan pitches in the T20 World Cup after playing all its matches so far in India, said batter Mark Chapman. "The guys understand what they need to do on slower surfaces after playing in India, where pitches were batting-friendly," said Chapman.

COMPLETE BACKING

Saim can take the game away from anyone, says Hesson

PTI

Saim Ayub was the highest run-scorer in the lead up to the World Cup. We certainly don't look at one or two games in isolation. We know that Saim can take the game away from anyone. He is bowling well, and he is bowling the tough overs too — Pakistan coach Mike Hesson.

PART OF THE DEAL

Marsh says Australia respects criticism for its T20 WC debacle

AP

Australia captain Mitchell Marsh said that his team respected the criticism back home after its group-stage exit from the T20 World Cup. "We certainly respect the noise back home when things do not quite go to plan as a team. We sort of knew that it was coming, we respect it," Marsh admitted.

FANTASTIC ACHIEVEMENT

Maxwell second after Raza to achieve rare treble in T20Is

GETTY IMAGES

Australia's Glenn Maxwell became the second all-rounder after Zimbabwe skipper Sikandar Raza to achieve the treble of 2,500 runs, 50 wickets and 50 catches in T20Is. The 37-year-old Maxwell achieved the feat at Pallekele on Friday when he castled Oman's Wasim Ali to claim his 50th wicket in the shortest format.

Pakistan spinners, Kiwi batters in focus as Super Eight begins

Black Caps openers Allen and Seifert will be hoping to lay a solid foundation for the middle-order on a slow surface at the Premadasa; the threat of rain may tempt the Asian side to include pacers Afridi and Salman in the playing XI

T20 WORLD CUP

Abhishek Saini
COLOMBO

Time to fire: Abrar will be keen to bounce back after missing the game against Namibia. GETTY IMAGES

After shouldering their team's leap past the group-stage hurdle, Pakistan spinners will be expected to live up to the reputation through the Super Eight phase too, beginning with their Group 2 match against New Zealand at the R. Premadasa Stadium here on Saturday.

Traditionally a pace powerhouse, Pakistan's pivoting has not even been subtle. It handed out 18 overs to its spinners against arch-rival India, and even dropped pace spearhead Shaheen Afridi in its last group-stage match against Namibia.

However, the game against India, Pakistan's only match at this venue so far, also exposed the chinks in its attack.

Southpaw Ishan Kishan exploited the on-side in that game, scoring 23 off just nine balls against Abrar Ahmed and Shadab Khan.

Kiwi middle-order bat Mark Chapman would take a leaf out of Kishan's book to assert himself.

Against Daryl Mitchell and Glenn Phillips, who have handled spin at strike rates of 170 and 197, respectively, pinning all hopes on its tweakers might come back to haunt Pakistan.

Additionally, a rain forecast on Saturday dangles a carrot at Pakistan to play Afridi with Salman Mirza.

With the bat, a little support for Sahibzada Farhan might go a long way. The opener became just the second centurion for Pakistan at T20 World Cups, and has 220 runs from four games. No other Pakistan batter has crossed even 100.

New Zealand, arriving on these shores after flourishing on batter-friendly surfaces in Chennai and Ahmedabad, would be cautious to not fall into a muddle.

Finn Allen and Tim Seifert have helped New Zealand score at 9.73 runs in the PowerPlay, but emulating it on Lankan soil is more than a long shot. On a slightly slower surface, they will hope to leave a platform for its middle-order to consolidate upon.

The return of captain Mitchell Santner might only make a well-rounded performance likelier.

Babar will bat at No. 4 going ahead: Hesson

Abhishek Saini
COLOMBO

Clear-cut: Babar's role is to play through the middle overs. AFP

Pakistan head coach Mike Hesson on Friday explained his team's decision to not send talisman Babar Azam at No. 4 in its last group-stage game against Namibia, stating that he would not have been "the best person to come in".

"The other day, we got to the 12th-over mark and at that point Babar Azam was not the best person to come in. We've got plenty of other options who can come in and perform that [finishing] role. And Babar's actually the first to acknowledge that," Hesson said before Pakistan's Super Eight match against New Zealand here.

Hesson, however, insisted that Babar will bat at No. 4 going ahead, despite coming under scrutiny.

"He's well aware that his strike rate in the PowerPlay in World Cups is less than 100, so clearly that's not a role we need.

"We got Babar back in for a specific role post the Asia Cup, we wanted some batsmanship through the middle (overs) and he certainly brings that for us," Hesson said.

Elaborating on the call to drop Shaheen Afridi, Hesson said, "We picked the best team to play that particular game. Salman Mirza has bowled incredibly well, he was probably really unlucky to not be playing the second and third games, his record since he started playing for Pakistan is exceptional".

Today's match

SUPER EIGHT

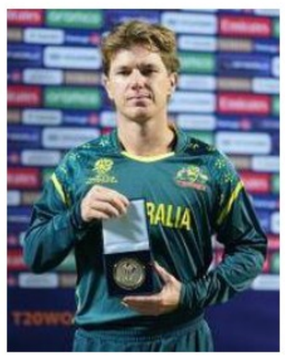
Colombo (RPS), 7.00 p.m.

HEAD-TO-HEAD

Played: 49
New Zealand 23
Pakistan 24 | NR 2

LIVE ON STAR SPORTS 1, 2 & JIOHOTSTAR

The Pakistan coach says Babar was not the best person to come in at No. 4 against Namibia
The Kiwi adds Salman, who came in for pace spearhead Afridi, bowled really well in the last encounter



Zampa. GETTY IMAGES

Australia bows out on a high

Press Trust of India
PALLEKELE

Wounded Australia concluded what has been a wretched campaign with a nine-wicket thrashing of Oman in their inconsequential final group-stage fixture of the T20 World Cup here on Friday.

Leg-spinner Adam Zampa led the way with four wickets as Australia bundled out Oman for 104 in 16.2 overs.

Skipper Mitchell Marsh then blazed away to an unbeaten 64 off 33 balls and Travis Head smashed 32 off 19 deliveries as the team completed the chase in only 9.4 overs.

This is the joint-fastest chase in the tournament's history for a total in excess of 100, following England's 10-wicket win over the USA in 2024.

The scores: Oman 104 in 16.2 overs (Wasim Ali 32, Xavier Bartlett 2/27, Adam Zampa 4/21, Glenn Maxwell 2/13) lost to Australia 108/1 in 9.4 overs (Mitchell Marsh 64 n.o., Travis Head 32).

Toss: Australia; **PoM:** Zampa.

No talk in the team about Abhishek's form: Morkel

Press Trust of India
AHMEDABAD

India's bowling coach Morne Morkel stressed that there had been no discussion about Abhishek Sharma's wretched run in the T20 World Cup so far.

Abhishek is yet to open his account in the tournament and during Friday's training, the opener was seen spending considerable time with head coach Gautam Gambhir. The southpaw, who has been dismissed for a duck thrice, could face another big test when India takes on South Africa in its first Super Eight match at the Narendra Modi Stadium here on Sunday.

When asked if there has been talk within the team about Abhishek's poor form, Morkel denied emphatically.

"Absolutely, no discussion. He is a world-class player. So far in the tournament, luckily, there have been some guys standing up for Abhishek (others scoring runs)," Morkel said.

Morkel, however, agreed that Abhishek needs to score runs as the tournament enters its business end.

"But we are going through a very important phase of the World Cup now and we expect him to do well. I am pretty sure, not only for the team but also for all the viewers watching the game.

"Because Abhishek is entertaining, and we love to see that. I am sure that he is hitting the ball well. It is just a matter of getting that start; he will get going after that," Morkel said.

The pitches in Mumbai and Ahmedabad have raised eyebrows, but Morkel was sympathetic towards the curators, saying that they had provided strips to the best of their abilities.

"Credit to the curators for producing pitches that are 200-plus surfaces so late in the season. It is a nightmare. There is a lot of pressure on those guys. They put a lot of hard work into giving us the best surface that they can possibly prepare."

The coach was unsure if the pitches are tiring because of overuse during the domestic season.

"So far this tournament, we have done really well with batting and bowling. Bar the one game, the first game, it was not a 200-plus surface. It was maybe a 170-run surface, and we went a little bit too hard at the start. But again, that was the learning. So there have been learnings from every match so far, and I think that it is the beauty about this game," Morkel said.

Final Points Table

ICC MEN'S T20 WORLD CUP INDIA & SRI LANKA 2026

GROUP A

	M	W	L	NR	PTS	NRR
India (Q)	4	4	0	0	8	2.500
Pakistan (Q)	4	3	1	0	6	0.976
USA	4	2	2	0	4	0.788
Netherlands	4	1	3	0	2	-1.217
Namibia	4	0	4	0	0	-3.108

GROUP B

	M	W	L	NR	PTS	NRR
Zimbabwe (Q)	4	3	0	1	7	1.506
Sri Lanka (Q)	4	3	1	0	6	1.741
Australia	4	2	2	0	4	1.523
Ireland	4	1	2	1	3	0.150
Oman	4	0	4	0	0	-4.845

GROUP C

	M	W	L	NR	PTS	NRR
West Indies (Q)	4	4	0	0	8	1.874
England (Q)	4	3	1	0	6	0.201
Scotland	4	1	3	0	2	0.184
Italy	4	1	3	0	2	-1.020
Nepal	4	1	3	0	2	-1.349

GROUP D

	M	W	L	NR	PTS	NRR
South Africa (Q)	4	4	0	0	8	1.943
New Zealand (Q)	4	3	1	0	6	1.227
Afghanistan	4	2	2	0	4	0.889
UAE	4	1	3	0	2	-1.364
Canada	4	0	4	0	0	-2.426

Q: QUALIFIED

Pearls of wisdom: Coach Gambhir interacts with Abhishek during Friday's training. VIJAY SONEJI

Linchpins: Skipper Suryakumar and premier pacer Bumrah will be key to India's chances. VIJAY SONEJI

Job well done: Trott helped Afghanistan take a big leap in world cricket. GETTY IMAGES

I gave it my all after coming here by chance, says Trott

C. Shyam Sundar
CHENNAI

Jonathan Trott was hailed as a "rock" of England's batting unit by former director of cricket Andy Flower; he was one of the more resolute ones.

But on Thursday, emotions appeared to get the better of the 44-year-old, who finished a memorable stint as the Afghanistan head coach following the conclusion of the team's campaign in the T20 World Cup at the MAC Stadium here.

"Maybe the time's right, maybe it's not. I don't know, but I wish everyone the best in the future. I'm very thankful for getting the opportunity.

"I got the opportunity by chance, really. Graham Thorpe was supposed to be the coach and he unfortunately couldn't take up the role," Trott said after Afghanistan's win over Canada. "I then got offered the job and took it with both hands. So I'm here by chance. I gave it my all. I hope the players can see the love that I have for the game and the care that I have for them as players and as people," he added.

For the South Africa-born Trott, who guided Afghanistan to the semifinals of the T20 WC in 2024, one of the joys of the job was developing players off the field as well and seeing lives change.

"Forget the cricket side, seeing guys equipping themselves... they were developing as young boys when I took over and have developed into young men. It is something that is worthwhile."

Asked if he harboured hopes of coaching England in the future, he said: "I'd love to one day have the opportunity to coach a team that I hold so dear to my heart."

INBRIEF

Om Prakash claims a one-stroke victory

Om Prakash Chouhan's final round of six-under 64 helped him aggregate 16-under 264 and record a one-stroke victory in the DP World Players Championship at the par-70 Tollygunge Club course in Kolkata on Friday. The 39-year-old Chouhan (69, 67, 64, 64) took the winner's cheque of ₹22.5 lakh for his 12th professional win and the first in over two years. Shaurya Bhattacharya (64, 62, 73, 66) and Manu Gandas (66, 69, 64, 66), the joint leaders after round three, finished tied-second with an identical 265.

Padikkal to lead unchanged Karnataka squad in Ranji final

Devdutt Padikkal was named the Karnataka captain for the Ranji Trophy final against Jammu and Kashmir, which will commence at the KSCA Stadium, Hubballi on February 24. Padikkal's inclusion comes after the batter suffered a scare in the semifinal against Uttarakhand, where he suffered an injury to the hand while fielding. Padikkal had left the field after taking the hit, and did not come out to bat in the second essay. The squad remains unchanged.

The squad: Devdutt Padikkal (Capt.), Mayank Agarwal, K.L. Rahul, Karun Nair, R. Smaran, Shreyas Gopal, Kruthik Krishna, Vidwath Kaverappa, Vidyadhar Patil, Prasidh Krishna, Mohsin Khan, Shikhar Shetty, K.L. Shrijith, V. Vyshak.

Pakistan to play three ODIs in Bangladesh next month

The Pakistan cricket team will tour Bangladesh next month to play a three-match ODI series. The Pakistan Cricket Board announced on Friday that the matches would be played on March 11, 13 and 15 at the Sher-e-Bangla Stadium in Dhaka.

LIVE TELECAST

Australia Women vs India Women: 3rd T20I, Star Sports 3 & JioHotstar, 1.45 p.m.
ISL: Sony Sports Ten 2 & FanCode, 5 & 7.30 p.m.
LaLiga: FanCode, 6.30, 8.45, 11 p.m. & 1.30 a.m. (Sunday)
Men's T20 World Cup: Star Sports 1 & JioHotstar, 7 p.m.
Serie A: DAZN, 7.30, 10.30 p.m. & 1.15 a.m. (Sunday)
Bundesliga: Sony Sports Ten 2 & LIV, 8 & 11 p.m.
Premier League: SS Select 1, 2 & JioHotstar, 8.30, 11 p.m. & 1.30 a.m. (Sunday)

India aims to seal historic series win against the formidable Aussies

The Adelaide pitch offers a lot more trueness than the surface at Canberra, and the batters should be able to trust their pick-up shots; the young and prolific Voll at the top of the order is the biggest threat for the visitors and the bowlers will have their task cut out in the decider

INDIA IN AUSTRALIA

Press Trust of India
ADELAIDE

Vital cogs: Openers Smriti and Shafali will have a big role to play if India harbours hopes of beating Australia. X@BCCIWOMEN

India will need its batting big guns to fire collectively against an experienced Australian bowling group in the third and final women's T20 International to seal a historic maiden series triumph Down Under, here on Saturday.

Despite registering a few victories in the past, the Indian women are yet to score a bilateral series win in Australia across all three formats.

To change that script, India needs a better batting effort here and it starts from openers Smriti Mandhana and Shafali Verma.

Both Smriti and Shafali got starts but failed to kick on, impeding India's relatively easy-looking chase of 164 in the second match.

The veteran Aussie trio of Kim Garth, Annabel Sutherland and Sophie Molineux exploited that opening, getting rid of five Indian batters for a mere seven runs to wreck the chase.

But the Adelaide pitch offers a lot more trueness than the surface at Canberra, and the Indian batters should be able to trust their pick-up shots here.

An excellent outfield also adds value to the drive here. Skipper Harmanpreet Kaur, Jemimah Rodrigues and Richa Ghosh love the ball coming on to the bat, and they can expect some assistance here.

Onus on Indian pacers

However, the smooth nature of the ground also puts an onus on Indian pacers – Renuka Singh, Arundhati Reddy, Kranti Goud and Amanjot Kaur – to be steady in their lines, as the Aussie batters can quite ruthlessly exploit any slack.

In that context, no one is a bigger threat than the young and prolific Georgia Voll, who has seamlessly taken over the opening role from the now-retired Meg Lanning and Alyssa Healy.

Those are massive shoes to fill, but the 22-year-old has been nothing less than remarkable so far.

The Indian pacers will have to stop Voll in her tracks, and the spinners – Deepti Sharma and Shree Charani – too need to chip in during the middle overs.

It is mandatory to keep the range-hitters Sutherland and Ash Gardner and the innovative Phoebe Litchfield quiet post the PowerPlay segment.

The teams (from): Australia: Sophie Molineux (Capt.), Tahlia McGrath, Darcie Brown, Nicola Carey, Kim Garth, Grace Harris, Phoebe Litchfield, Beth Mooney, Ellyse Perry, Megan Schutt, Annabel Sutherland, Georgia Voll, Georgia Wareham.

India: Harmanpreet Kaur (Capt.), Smriti Mandhana, Bharti Fulmali, Kranti Gaud, Richa Ghosh (wk), Gunalan Kamalini, Amanjot Kaur, Shreyanka Patil, Sneh Rana, Arundhati Reddy, Renuka Singh, Jemimah Rodrigues, Shafali Verma, Deepti Sharma, Shree Charani, Vaishnavi Sharma.

Match starts at 1.45 pm IST.

Radha excels as India-A enters final, faces Bangladesh-A

RISING STARS ASIA CUP

Press Trust of India
BANGKOK

Joy unbound: Indian players celebrate their win. ACC

Skipper Radha Yadav produced an excellent all-round effort to power India-A into the final of the Women's Rising Stars T20 Asia Cup with a five-wicket victory over Sri Lanka-A here on Friday.

In the other semifinal, Bangladesh-A bundled out Pakistan-A for 56 to seal a 54-run win.

Sri Lanka's decision to bat backfired as the Indian bowlers, led by Radha, ran through the line-up to bowl the islanders out for a paltry 118.

Left-arm spinner Radha returned figures of four for 19 and was ably supported by fellow left-arm spinner Tanuja Kanwar (2/20) and leg-spinner Prema Rawat (2/9).

Opener Sanjana Kavindi (31) was the highest scorer for Sri Lanka.

The Lankans were placed at 71 for two in the 10th over but could not counter the Indian spinners from that point, losing the remaining eight wickets for 47 runs in a little over nine overs.

India did not have too many moments of worry during the chase, apart from losing three wickets for 21 runs at one stage. That included top-scorer Vrinda Dinesh (42). But with Radha making an unbeaten 31 off 18 balls with seven fours, India sauntered home in 13.3 overs.

The scores: Sri Lanka-A 118 in 19.4 overs (Sanjana Kavindi 31, Radha Yadav 4/19, Prema Rawat 2/9, Tanuja Kanwar 2/20) lost to India-A 119/5 in 13.3 overs (Vrinda Dinesh 42, Radha Yadav 31 n.o., Shashini Gimhani 2/33). **Toss:** Lanka; **PoM:** Radha.

Goa opens its account with a 2-0 defeat of Mohammedan

ISL

Sports Bureau
KOLKATA

Off the mark: Pol Moreno, who scored the opener, is mobbed by teammates. DEBASISH BHADURI

FC Goa struck twice in the opening half to defeat Mohammedan Sporting 2-0 in their Indian Super League clash at the Kishore Bharati Stadium here on Friday.

The victory handed Goa its first win of the season and took its tally to three points from two matches, while Mohammedan Sporting slumped to its second consecutive defeat.

Goa, which had earlier fought back to secure a 1-1 draw against Inter Kashi in its opener at home, found its rhythm early against Sporting.

The breakthrough came in just the fourth minute when Spanish defender Pol Moreno rose above the Mohammedan defence to head home from a corner.

The early goal allowed the Gaurs to dictate proceedings as they continued to press forward in search of a second.

The moment arrived in the 31st minute following a defensive lapse.

The Mohammedan goalkeeper Subhajit Bhattacharjee rushed out to challenge Goa winger Udanta Singh inside the penalty area and brought him down.

Serbian forward Dejan Drazic calmly converted from the spot to give Goa a comfortable cushion heading into the break.

Goa managed the second half efficiently while Mohammedan Sporting, one of the few teams in the competition without a foreign recruit, struggled to find a breakthrough.

The result: Mohammedan Sporting 0 lost to FC Goa 2 (Pol Moreno 4, Dejan Drazic 32-pen).

Indian hockey team eyes turnaround in Hobart leg

FIH PRO LEAGUE:

Press Trust of India
HOBART

Tough task: After the debacle at home, India will need to up its game against Spain and Australia. X@THEHOCKEYINDIA

Outplayed at home, the Indian men's hockey team would be eager to bounce back and make a fresh start under new skipper Hardik Singh when it begins the FIH Pro League's overseas leg with a game against Spain here on Saturday.

The Hobart leg of the series, which also features hosts Australia, will be held till February 25 at the Tasmania Hockey Centre.

The recent Rourkela leg proved to be a painful learning curve for the Indians with losses to Argentina and Belgium. Regular skipper Harmanpreet Singh has taken a break to welcome his second child from the upcoming clutch of matches. The team views these fixtures as a vital opportunity to test combinations, refine structure, and build momentum ahead of the upcoming FIH World Cup and the subsequent Asian Games. After the campaign-opener against Spain, a high-octane clash against Australia is lined up for Sunday.

India will face Spain again on February 24 before concluding the leg with a final match against Australia on February 25.

India and Spain have been evenly-matched in their last 10 encounters, claiming four regulation wins each, alongside two draws that India went on to win in shootouts.

Against Australia, high-scoring drama has been a constant. The hosts hold the statistical edge in their last 10 meetings with six wins to India's two (and two draws).

Two-time Olympic bronze medallist Hardik will lead the side that also features young players like Amandeep Lakra and Manmeet Singh, both of whom are looking to build on their recent senior debuts.

Rising stars such as Angad Bir Singh, Araijeet Singh Hundal, and Aditya Arjun Lalage will also be eager to prove their mettle in the forward line.

Match starts: 12 noon (IST).

Sakamoto to meet Crawford in semis

DELHI OPEN

Sports Bureau
NEW DELHI

Second seed Rei Sakamoto of Japan battled past 18-year-old Italian Federico Cina 6-7(7), 6-3, 6-2 in the men's singles quarterfinals of the Delhi Open here on Friday.

Sakamoto, 19, lost the tie-breaker in the first set, but grew in confidence against the fellow teenager from Palermo as the match progressed.

He will face fifth seed Oliver Crawford in the semifinal on Saturday. Crawford emerged victorious in a battle of Brits, beating third seed Jay Clarke 3-6, 7-5, 6-3. In the other last-four clash, two unseeded players, Great Britain's Felix Gill and Greece's Stefanos Sakellaridis, will be pitted against each other.

While the Indian challenge in the singles ended on Thursday after Sumit Nagal went down to Cina, the men's doubles competition still retains local interest. In the quarterfinals on Friday, India's Siddhant Banthia and Bulgaria's Alexander Donski prevailed over the all-Indian pair of Divij Sharan and Karan Singh 6-3, 6-4. Niki Poonacha and Thailand's Pruchya Isaro also progressed to the semifinals after getting the better of Luca Castelnuovo and Rio Noguchi 6-2, 6-2.

The results: Singles: Quarterfinals: Rei Sakamoto (Jpn) bt Federico Cina (Ita) 6-7(7), 6-3, 6-2; Oliver Crawford (GBr) bt Jay Clarke (GBr) 3-6, 7-5, 6-3; Stefanos Sakellaridis (Gre) bt Rio Noguchi (Jpn) 6-0, 6-3; Felix Gill (GBr) bt Michael Geerts (Bel) 4-6, 6-3, 6-4.

Doubles: Quarterfinals: Siddhant Banthia (Ind) & Alexander Donski (Bul) bt Divij Sharan (Ind) & Karan Singh (Ind) 6-3, 6-4; Pruchya Isaro (Tha) & Niki Poonacha (Ind) bt Luca Castelnuovo (Sui) & Rio Noguchi (Jpn) 6-2, 6-2; Ji-sung Nam (Kor) & Patrik Niklas-Salminen (Fin) bt Saketh Myneni (Ind) & Digvijay Pratap Singh (Ind) 6-3, 6-4; Jay Clarke (GBr) & Michael Geerts (Bel) bt Tsung-hao Huang (Tpe) & Uisung Park (Kor) 7-5, 3-6, 10-5.

Blue Tigresses land early in Australia for AFC Asian Cup

FOOTBALL

ANI
NEW DELHI

Coachspeak: The Indian team is all ears as Amelia Valverde holds forth. X@INDIANFOOTBALL

India was the first among 11 visiting teams to reach Australia ahead of the AFC Women's Asian Cup, touching down in Perth on February 11, three weeks before its first game.

India will kickstart its Group C campaign against Vietnam in Perth on March 4, followed by Japan at the same venue on March 7, and Chinese Taipei 10 in Sydney on March. Carrying valuable experience from their Turkiye tour, the Blue Tigresses have maintained their training momentum down under.

"We were the first to arrive, and we're very happy to already be here and properly settled, which is important," said India head coach Amelia Valverde while naming her 26-member playing squad. "We're very happy with how things feel with the players and the group."

From single-digit temperatures in Turkiye, Valverde and her side has had to adjust to the summer in Perth, but arriving early has made that process a lot smoother.

"It took a few days to adapt to the time difference and also a bit to the weather.

"It was raining heavily there. Here, the temperatures are significantly hotter. Our matches are at night, so temperatures will be more controlled."

Having trained the team for a month, Valverde stated that it's been a fruitful experience so far.

The squad: Goalkeepers: Panthoi Chanu, Shreya Hooda, Sowmiya Narayanasamy.

Defenders: Astam Oraon, Juli Kishan, Martina Thokchom, Nirmala Devi, Sanju, Sarita Yumnam, Shilky Devi, Sushmita Lepcha, Sweety Devi.

Midfielders: Anju Tamang, Aveka Singh, Babina Devi, Jasoda Munda, Sanfida Nongrum, Sangita Basfore.

Forwards: Dangmei Grace, Kaviya Pakkirisamy, Lynda Kom, P. Malavika, Manisha Kalyan, Pyari Xaxa, Rimpa Haldar and Soumya Guguloth.

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF TECHNICAL TEACHERS TRAINING AND RESEARCH

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Advt. No.9/2025-26

Applications are invited for the following Faculty Positions

Name of the Post	No. of Post (s)	Pay details
Professor	04	Pay Level -14 (Rs.1,44,200 - 2,11,800)
Associate Professor	03	Pay Level -13A1 (Rs.1,31,400 - 2,04,700)

For Details, Visit the Institute website: https://www.nitttrc.ac.in

Director

AMARAVATI GROWTH and INFRASTRUCTURE CORPORATION LIMITED (AGICL)

PROJECT OFFICE, RAYAPUDI, THULLURU MANDAL, (A.P.)

TENDER NOTICE - GLOBAL TENDERS

NIT No: 118/AGICL/2026 dated 19.02.2026; Dated: 19.02.2026

Name of Work: Request For Proposal for selection of Project Design & Management Consultants - Master plan for Riverfront Development, Amaravati, Andhra Pradesh. The RFP can be downloaded on www.apeprocurement.gov.in from 21.02.2026 to 13.03.2026,@14:00 Hrs. Due date for submission of Bid is 13.03.2026 @ 15:00 Hrs, Technical bid opening on 13.03.2026 @ 16:00 Hrs. Please refer to www.apeprocurement.gov.in for details. For further clarifications, you may get in touch with Chief Engineer (Civil) : chiefengineer@agicl.org Contact Number : 8500254589

Sd/- Managing Director, **AGICL**, Project office **APCRDA**, Thulluru.

Maharashtra Industrial Township Limited (MITL)

(Formerly known as Aurangabad Industrial Township Limited)

Udyog Sarthi, MIDC Office, Marol Industrial Area, Andheri (East), Mumbai - 400 093

NOTICE FOR INVITING e-TENDER

Maharashtra Industrial Township Limited (MITL) invite e-tender for procurement of RTC power for Shendra Industrial Area in Short Term as per guidelines issued by Ministry of Power, Government of India dated 30.03.2015 and subsequent amendments. Details are as per below.

Tender Specification No	Discom	Type of Power	Bid Quantum	Period
MITL/SBIA/Short/ Conventional/ T-16	MITL - Shendra Industrial Area	Conventional RTC Power	18 MW	Short Term for One Month

Tender Shall be floated at (**www.mstcecommerce.com**) for purchase of power as per guidelines issued by Ministry of Power, Government of India dated 30.03.2015.

The documents will be issued to the bidder only thru e-tender on **www.mstcecommerce.com**. Bids to be submitted on **www.mstcecommerce.com** only and hard copy of technical bid to be submitted to the address mentioned below - Maharashtra Industrial Township Limited (MITL), Udyog Sarthi, MIDC Office, Marol Industrial Area, Andheri (East), Mumbai - 400 093. All other terms and conditions are available in the tender document.

Date: 20.02.2026

SD/-
Authorized Signatory

PUNJAB STATE BUS STANDS MANAGEMENT COMPANY LIMITED (PUNBUS)

JEEEVANDEEP BUILDING, SECTOR 17 A, CHANDIGARH
CIN: U74999CH19955GCD15974, Ph: 0172-2704606
(Website: https://punjabroadways.punjab.gov.in/en)

E-Tender for Selection of Bidder for Supply Of 696 **"Fully Built Ordinary Passenger Bus"** under Form 22 Or Form 22A to PUNBUS and PRTC

NOTICE INVITING BID

Online E-Tender are hereby invited for Selection of Bidder for Supply Of 696 **"Fully Built Ordinary Passenger Bus"** having Bus Chassis **(Minimum WB 5600 MM to Maximum 6000 MM)** with Front Mounted Diesel Engine, BS-VI, OBD-II, 6 Cylinders, Type-II , 52+2 Seater alongwith Bus Body Fabrication (In compliance of AIS:052/AIS:153, as amended from time to time and Minimum Technical Specifications of Bus Body attached with Tender) under Form 22 Or Form 22A to PUNBUS and PRTC. The detailed terms & conditions are given in RFP document and this can be obtained from **https://eproc.punjab.gov.in** with effect from 25-02-2026 at 12:30 hrs. The bidder will have to submit there technical and Financial bid online completed in all respects as specified in RFP. The last date for bid submission shall be On or before 25-03-2026 by 14:00 hrs. and the technical bid will be opened on 25-03-2026 by 15:00 hrs. The undersigned reserved the right to reject any/ all tenders without assigning any reasons. All the bidders intending to participate in the tender process online are required to get registered on the centralized E-Procurement Portal i.e. **https://eproc.punjab.gov.in/** and the bidder must ensure that he/she complies with the online available important guidelines at the this portal for Digital Signature Certificate (DSC).

1746/12/2025-26/8597 **Managing Director, PUNBUS**

RAJASTHAN RAJYA VIDYUT UTPADAN NIGAM LIMITED

CIN:- U40102RJ2000SGCO16484 (A Govt. of Rajasthan Undertaking)

O/o CE(fuel), 6th Floor, LIC Jeevandeep Building, Lalkothi, Jaipur

E-TENDER NOTICE: TN-18(RVU2526GLOB02358)

E-Tenders are invited for **Sale of ESP Dry Fly Ash (including conveying from ESP Hoppers & Collection in Silo & Loading) generated from Unit-1 to 6 of Kota Super Thermal Power Station.** Tender details are available on http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in (for e-tender), www.energy.rajasthan.gov.in/rvunl & www.sppp.rajasthan.gov.in.

Raj.Samwad/C/25/20919 RVUN/PR-4353 **Superintending Engineer (Fuel)**

TRANSMISSION CORPORATION OF ANDHRA PRADESH LIMITED

(A Government of Andhra Pradesh Undertaking & An ISO 27001-2022 Certified Company)

CALL FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST NOTICE

The **APTRANSCO** invites Expression of Interest for "Establishment of Indigenous SOC (including Indigenous NOC) at APSLDC in the State of Andhra Pradesh" within 4 weeks from the date of this publication. Please visit APTransco website **www.aptransco.gov.in** for further details.

R.O. GMCC/APTRANSCO/52/26 **Sd/- Chief Engineer/APSLDC**

सेन्ट्रल माईन प्लानिंग एण्ड डिजाईन इन्स्टीच्यूट लिमिटेड
CENTRAL MINE PLANNING AND DESIGN INSTITUTE LIMITED

(A Subsidiary of Coal India Limited)

Gondwana Place, Kanke Road, Ranchi - 834008, Jharkhand, India

NOTICE

"All the tenders issued by CIL and its Subsidiaries for procurement of Goods, Works and Services are available on websites of Coal India Ltd. **www.coalindia.in**/respective Subsidiary Company (CMPDI, **www.cmpdi.co.in)**, CIL e-procurement portal **https://coalindiatenders.nic.in** and Central Public Procurement Portal **https://eprocure.gov.in.** In addition, procurement is also done through GeM Portal **https://gem.gov.in.**''

JAIPUR VIDYUT VITRAN NIGAM LIMITED

Office of The Superintending Engineer (TW)

Old Power House Premises, Near Ram Mandir
Bani Park, Jaipur-302006, TELE FAX NO.0141-2201022
Regd. Office: Vidyut Bhawan, Jyoti Nagar, Jaipur 302005
Website: http://energy.rajasthan.gov.in/jvvnl, Email: setw@jvvnl.org

E- TENDER NOTICE

Online bids are hereby invited in two parts (Techno-commercial bid and Price bid) from eligible bidders for the work of Execution of deposit works, including the Supply, Erection, Installation, Testing, and Commissioning of materials/equipment for the construction of 33/11 KV sub-stations, 33 KV & 11 KV overhead Line, laying of 33 KV and 11 KV underground XLPE Cable, construction of 33 KV Bay, 11 KV Bay and shifting of 33 KV & 11 KV line, Metering under Jhalawar circle on turnkey basis against TW/TN -616. Participating bidders can download complete set of bidding documents from e-procurement portal http://www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in. Last Date/Time for receipt of online bids through e-procurement portal is 10.03.2026 up to 05:00 PM. For further details regarding Works, Tender Notifications & Specifications please visit website http://www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://www.sppp.rajasthan.gov.in & **http://energy.rajasthan.gov.in/jvvnl. UBN :**VVN2526WLOB00998

JPR-3126 (2026) **SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER (TW)**
Raj.Samwad/C/25/20916 For Electricity Complaints Toll Free No. 1800 180 6507

PSPCL Punjab State Power Corporation Limited

(Regd. Office: PSEB Head Office, The Mall Patiala)

Corporate Identification Number(CIN): U40109PB2010SGC033813 | **Website: www.pspcl.in**
(Contact Number 9646123323)

Tender Inquiry No. PPR - 08/2026 **Dated: 18.02.2026**

Chief Engineer/PP&R Organization, Shed No. D-3, Shakti Vihar, PSPCL, Patiala invites E-tender under three part bid system for supply of electrical energy (RE-Non Solar) from interstate/intrastate sources viz. Generators, Traders having Valid Inter State Trading License issued by CERC for interstate trading of energy, intrastate trading license issued by PSERC for intrastate trading of energy, State Electricity Boards, State Electricity Utilities, States, IPPs & CPPs from 5th March 2026 to 31st March 2026. The link for the e-Bidding portal is **www.mstcecommerce.com** and is also available on the website of Ministry of Power (www.Powermin.nic.in) and PFC Consultancy Limited (**www.pfcindia.com**). For detailed NIT & tender specifications please refer to **www.mstcecommerce.com** from 18.02.2026 onwards.

Note:-Corrigendum and addendum, if any will be published online at **www.mstcecommerce.com**

1079/12/2025-26/8588 **C 265/26**

MANGALORE ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED

(A Government of Karnataka undertaking)
Corporate Office, "MESCOM BHAVANA", Bejai, Mangalore - 575 004
Ph: 0824-2885795 CIN: U40109 KA 2002 SGC 030425

No. E-290458 Date: 18.02.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION (THROUGH KPP PORTAL ONLY)

MESCOM invites tender for Manufacture & Supply of following material.

Tender No	Name of the Material proposed for Procurement	Quantity
MESCOM/2025-26/ IND0155	11 KV 45 KN dead end type polymer Insulators	70,000 Nos

The interested eligible bidders may log on to **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** on or after **21.02.2026.**

DIPR/DK/KSMCA/1641 / 25-26 dt: 20.02.2026 **Sd/-, Superintending Engineer (Ele) (Procurement)**

For Power Related Complaints & Assistance Call Toll Free Number 1912

KERALA MEDICAL SERVICES CORPORATION LTD

(DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE, GOVT. OF KERALA)
Head Office : Thycaud, Thiruvananthapuram-14,
(Telephone No. 0471-2337353, FAX No. 0471-3045647),
E-mail : edrugs.kmscl@kerala.gov.in,
website : www.kmscl.kerala.gov.in, CIN No. U24233KL2007SGC021616

No.KMSCL/ED/22/2025 Date: 18.02.2026

E- TENDER NOTICE

Online bids are invited for the procurement of Anti Haemophilia Drugs vide e-tender no KMSCL/ED/HEAM/RC/2026/002 dtd. 18.02.2026 for Department of Health & Family Welfare, Govt. of Kerala.

Sl. No.	Name of Item	Last Date & time of Uploading of tender	Date & time of Technical Bid opening
1.	Recombinant Anti Haemophilic factor VIII (SHL & EHL) 500 IU	04.03.2026 5.00 pm.	06.03.2026 11.00 am.

Tender documents can be downloaded from the website **www.etenders.kerala.gov.in**.

(S/d-) MANAGING DIRECTOR (Tender Inviting Authority)

राष्ट्रीय ध्रुवीय एवं समुद्री अनुसंधान केन्द्र
NATIONAL CENTRE FOR POLAR AND OCEAN RESEARCH

पृथ्वी विज्ञान मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार
Ministry of Earth Sciences, Govt. of India
हेडलैंड सडा, वास्को -द- गामा, गोवा **-403804,**

स्थान: पृथ्वी विज्ञान मंत्रालय, पृथ्वी भवन, आईएमडी कैंपस, , लोधी रोड, नई दिल्ली -110 003
Venue: Ministry of Earth Sciences, Prithvi Bhawan, IMD Campus, , Lodhi Road, New Delhi –110 003

राष्ट्रीय ध्रुवीय और महासागर अनुसंधान केंद्र (एनसीपीओआर), पृथ्वी विज्ञान मंत्रालय (एमओईएस), भारत सरकार (जीओआई) का एक स्वायत्त संस्थान है, जो भारतीय अंटार्कटिक वैज्ञानिक अभियान के समन्वय के लिए जिम्मेदार है। एनसीपीओआर अनुबंध के आधार पर प्रशिक्षित कर्मियों की भर्ती कर रहा है, जिसमें निम्नलिखित पद शामिल हैं: वाहन मैकेनिक, वाहन इलेक्ट्रीशियन , एक्सकवेटिंग मशीन ऑपरेटर, क्रेन ऑपरेटर, स्टेशन इलेक्ट्रीशियन, जनरेटर मैकेनिक और ऑपरेटर, वेल्डर, बॉयलर ऑपरेटर और मैकेनिक/प्लंबर/फिटर, बढ़ई, वॉयेज सपोर्ट असिस्टेंट, पुरुष नर्स, वैज्ञानिक सहायक, रेडियो/वायरलेस ऑपरेटर, इन्वेंटरी एवं स्टोर्स सहायक, शेफ/कुक. भारतीय अनुसंधान केंद्रों (अंटार्कटिका) में 06 से 18 महीने की अवधि के लिए वाहनों और जीवन-रक्षक प्रणालियों के संचालन एवं रखरखाव हेतु इन प्रशिक्षित कर्मियों की आवश्यकता है।

आवेदकों को साक्षात्कार के समय सत्यापन के लिए मूल प्रमाण पत्र / दस्तावेज के साथ प्रासंगिक प्रमाण पत्रों की स्व-सत्यापित फोटो प्रतियों के एक सेट और एक पासपोर्ट साइज फोटो (सफेद बैकग्राउंड) साथ लाने की आवश्यकता है। जिन आवेदकों के पास मूल प्रमाण पत्र/दस्तावेज नहीं हैं, उन्हें साक्षात्कार में शामिल होने की अनुमति नहीं दी जाएगी। पात्रता, दस्तावेज़ीकरण और संविदात्मक वेतन संबंधी विस्तृत जानकारी के लिए हमारी वेबसाइट www.ncpor.res.in पर जाएं या सोमवार से शुक्रवार, सुबह 10:00 बजे से शाम 5:00 बजे तक 0832-2525526/23/20 पर संपर्क करें। वॉक-इन-इंटरव्यू का आयोजन निम्नलिखित पते पर किया जाएगा: पृथ्वी विज्ञान मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार, पृथ्वी भवन, इंडिया हैबिटेट सेंटर के सामने, लोधी रोड, नई दिल्ली – 110003

National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research (NCPOR), an autonomous Institution under the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES), Government of India (GoI), is responsible for coordinating the Indian Scientific Expedition to Antarctica. NCPOR is looking for trained manpower (Vehicle Mechanic, Vehicle Electrician, OEM, Crane Operator, Station Electrician, Generator Mechanic & Operator; Welder; Boiler Operator & Mechanic/ Plumber/ Fitter; Carpenter; Voyage Support Assistant; Male Nurse; Scientific Assistant; Radio/ Wireless Operator; Inventory & Stores Assistant and Chef/Cook) on a contract basis. The manpower required for the operation and maintenance of vehicles and life support systems at Indian Research Bases, Antarctica, for the duration of 06 to 18 months.

Applicants need to bring original certificates/documents for verification at the time of interview along with one set of self-attested photo copies of relevant certificates and recent passport size colour photo in white background. Applicants not having original certificates/documents will not be allowed to attend the interview. For details regarding eligibility, documentation, online enrolment, and contractual wages, please visit our website www.ncpor.res.in or contact 0832-2525526/23/20 between 10:00 hrs to 17:00 hrs from Monday to Friday. **A walk-in interview will be conducted at the Ministry of Earth Sciences, Government of India, Prithvi Bhawan, opposite India Habitat Centre, Lodhi Road, New Delhi 110003**.

Advt No:NCPOR/2026/03 For & on behalf of **Director, NCPOR**

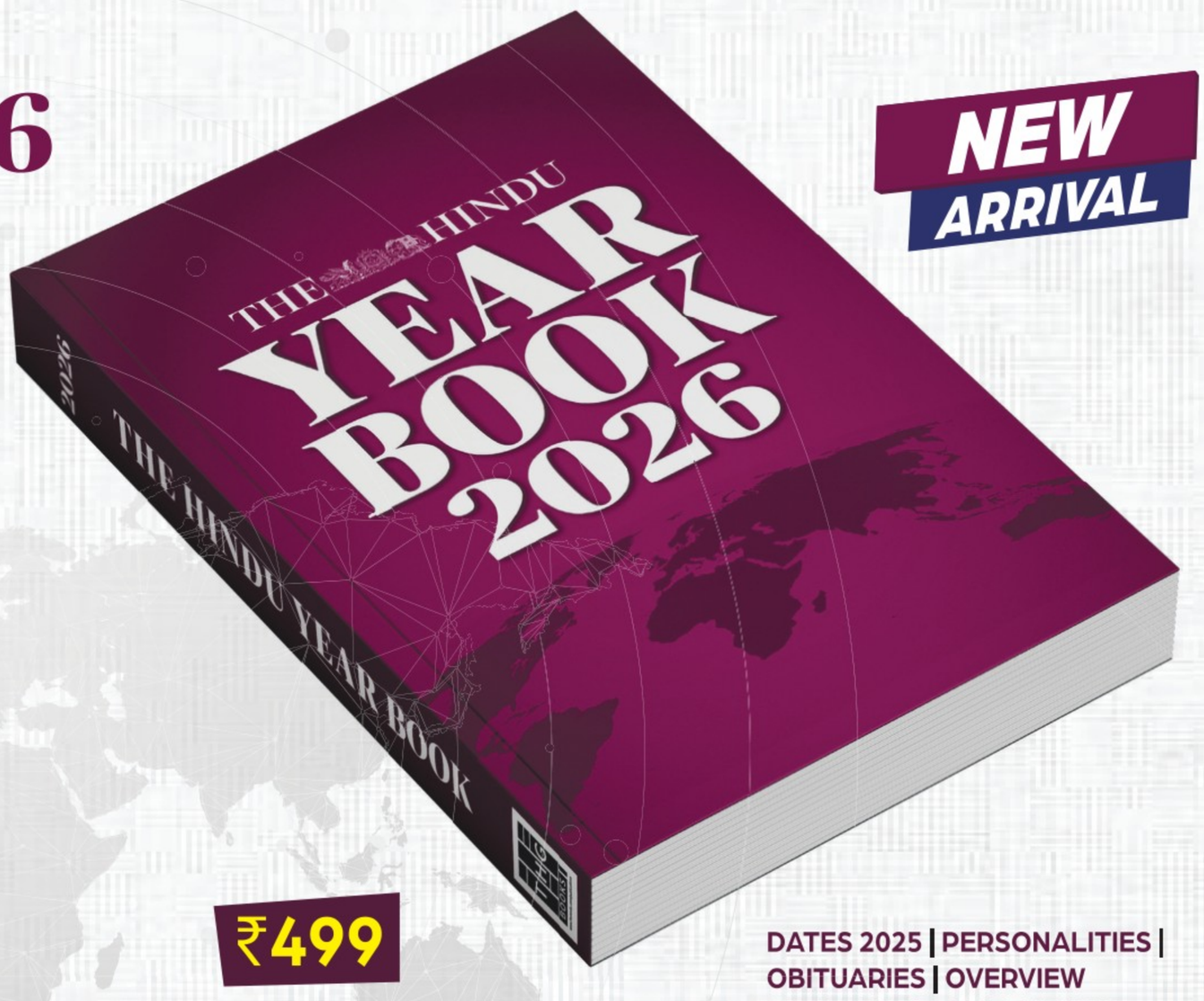
A SPECIAL PUBLICATION FROM THE HINDU GROUP

THE HINDU GROUP

The Hindu Year Book 2026

provides chronological, contextual, and factual information on the key events that occupied public attention **between January and December 2025.**

It features a Calendar of Events with Profiles of People, and Data on India and the World. Expert essays cover critical topics such as like AI and the Indus Waters Treaty, while dedicated sections analyse global governance, economy, and sports through evocative photographs and factual reporting.



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Second home: Zadran has been vocal about the support from the Chennai crowd. S.R. RAGHUNATHAN

Ibrahim Zadran's love affair with Chepauk continues

He was the Player-of-the-Match when Afghanistan stunned Pakistan in the 2023 ODI WC; he also claimed the honour in the win against Canada

T20 WORLD CUP

C. Shyam Sundar
CHENNAI

Ibrahim Zadran seems to enjoy playing in Chennai.

The Afghanistan batter was the star when the team put it across Pakistan in the ODI World Cup at the M.A. Chidambaram Stadium here in 2023 and came up with a match-winning unbeaten 95 in the final group game against Canada in the T20 World Cup on Thursday.

"It was special," he said of the vibe in this southern city and the crowd support.

"We won against Pakistan here. We beat them for the first time in 50 overs in the World Cup. That time, too, the crowd supported us.

"They encouraged us a lot. I was the Player-of-the-Match that day as well. Yeah, I enjoyed it a lot when I was batting.

"Then, when I went to deep mid-on, when I took the catch, they cheered me or, you know, the guys. I really enjoyed myself every time I've played here."

Zadran dedicated his Player-of-the-Match award to head coach Jonathan Trott, who parted ways with the team after the win over Canada, crediting the former England cricketer for instilling discipline in him and helping improve his batting.

Handling pressure

"He (Trott) taught us how to play in pressure situations, how to build your innings and worked with us technically, tactically, mentally," the Afghan batter said.

F1 CEO confident Verstappen will be part of its future

MOTORSPORTS

Associated Press
SAKHIR

Formula One chief executive Stefano Domenicali dismissed Max Verstappen's suggestion that the new F1 regulations could influence the Red Bull driver's future in the sport.

The four-time champion has been a critic of the sweeping changes that have been made to the F1 regulations, calling the cars, which rely more on electrical power than before, "no fun" to drive and likening them to all-electric series Formula E "on steroids".

Speaking on the *Up to Speed* podcast, Verstappen said that the regulations wouldn't help the "longevity" of his career.

Ready to roar: Verstappen drives during pre-season testing in Sakhir. AFP

"I met Max yesterday (Wednesday), because as you know Max is incredible. He has a way of saying something that could sometimes be interpreted in a certain way," Domenicali said during pre-season testing here on Thursday.

All ears for inputs

"I guarantee you that Max wants to and does care about Formula 1 more than anyone else.

"He has a way of putting the point that he wants to say in a certain way, but we had a very constructive meeting.

"My style is always to be very prudent and I try to solve the things internally. We don't have to highlight things that actually are not in the interest of the fan. And we know that Max will be part of the future of Formula 1.

"Of course, it's very important that we listen to him, just like we are listening to all the top drivers who are very important in this sport," Domenicali added. Verstappen made his F1 debut in 2015 at the age of 17, making him the youngest driver in the history of the sport, and has publicly mused over potential retirement before.

When he started his 200th career race in 2024, Verstappen said that he believed he was closer to the end of his career than the start.

He's shown enthusiasm for other racing series as well and made his debut in endurance sportscar racing in Germany last year.

In the podcast, the 28-year-old Dutch driver was asked how close he might be to retirement from F1. "Definitely closer to the end, that's for sure. Honestly, it's a tough one. I would say the current regulations are not helping the longevity of my career in Formula 1," Verstappen said. "I'm very happy with my career in Formula 1. I can easily leave it behind. I have a lot of other projects."

BENGALURU ROUND-UP

Vaishnavi shocks Taylah to make the last four

Unseeded Vaishnavi Adkar (World No. 690) stunned fourth seed Taylah Preston (World No. 148) 6-3, 1-6, 6-4 to reach the semifinals of the KPB Trust ITF Women's Open W100 Bengaluru 2026 at the S.M. Krishna Tennis Stadium here on Friday.

The 21-year-old will face face second seed Lanlana Tararudee of Thailand in the last four.

In another last-eight clash, Polina Iatcenko took out top seed Talia Gibson 6-2, 7-5.

Great going: Vaishnavi held on to pull off the big win. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The results: Singles: Quarterfinals: Vaishnavi Adkar bt Taylah Preston (Aus) 6-3, 1-6, 6-4; Lanlana Tararudee (Tha) bt Elena Pridankina 6-1, 6-3; Hanne Vandewinkel (Bel) bt Fangran Tian (Chn) 6-2, 6-2; Polina Iatcenko bt Talia Gibson (Aus) 6-2, 7-5.

Doubles: Semifinals: Priska Madelyn Nugroho (Ina) & Ankita Raina (Ind) bt Anastasia Kulikova (Fin) & Kristiana Sidorova 6-2, 3-6,10-5; Misaki Matsuda & Eri Shimizu (Jpn) bt Jasmijn Gimbrere (Ned) & Prarthana Thombare (Ind) 6-2, 6-4.

Mathikere CC takes the honours

Mathikere CC defeated National Cricketers in the final to emerge as the KSCA Group I, Division V league champion at the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium here on Friday.

On top: The Mathikere CC squad that emerged the KSCA Group I, Division V league champion. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The scores: National Cricketers 196/8 in 50 overs (K.M. Sharath 62) lost to Mathikere CC 199/8 in 39.1 overs (S.S. Sanjay 70, Rahul Shetty 68 n.o., Sunil Kumar 3/26, Prasanna Patilkulkarni 4/40).

Income Tax gets the better of Sniper

Income Tax edged out Sniper FC 1-0 in the BDFA 'A' division football league here on Friday.

The results:

'A' division: Stride FC bt RWF FC 4-2; Income Tax FC bt Sniper FC 1-0.

'B' division: ADE FC bt Bangalore Warriors FC 6-4; Mysore Vijayanagar FC bt South India FC 3-0.

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